

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

HISTORICAL BOUNDARY ATLAS

IN ALBERTA





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REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

HISTORICAL BOUNDARY ATLAS

IN ALBERTA

A Historical Perspective of Commission Boundary Changes Within the Province of Alberta

Prepared by Planning Support Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs

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December 31, 1984

INTRODUCTION

Land use planning can simply be defined as a rational process of identifying related goals of the community and developing means by which these goals can be met through control over the use to which land is put. Land use planning and administration is indeed a major aspect of the role of regional planning commissions.

Alberta is a relatively young province, yet it has one of the longest traditions of planning in Canada. The first enactment of planning legislation occurred in the early 1900s during the period of rapid settlement that followed the expansion of the railroad.

A new act was passed in 1928 entitled "An Act to Facilitate Town Planning and the Preservation of the Natural Beauties of the Province". This 1928 Act and its earlier 1922 counterpart were consolidated in 1929 and renamed The Town Planning Act. A provision was made in this act for the establishment of Town and Regional Planning Commissions. Here, a Regional Planning Commission could be composed of two or more municipalities formed together for the purpose of preparing Town planning schemes.

With the beginning of the Second World War and the revitalization of the Alberta Economy, renewed attention was given to land use planning. A consolidation of the Town Planning Act was undertaken in 1942 and the idea of regional planning commissions was temporarily abandoned. The discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947 launched Alberta on another round of rapid growth, and the major cities of Edmonton and Calgary especially, experienced rapid expansion almost beyond their abilities to handle. This led to the hiring of professional planners, first in Edmonton in 1949 then in Calgary in 1951.

In 1950, a series of major amendments were made to the 1942 Town Planning Act, one of which was to change the title of the Act to the Town and Rural Planning Act. Provision was made for the formation and establishment of District Planning Commissions – a forerunner of the later Regional Planning Commissions.

The role of these commissions was more advisory, conceived at the time to be advisory bodies composed of the elected representatives of municipalities situated in the District. Such a commission was responsible upon the request of a municipality, for the preparation of general plans and zoning bylaws for municipalities situated within the boundaries of the District and for advising on planning matters of a general nature or involving two or more municipalities.

To control development during the preparation of the general plan, the Town and Rural Planning Act allowed for the Minister of Municipal Affairs to issue interim development control orders to those municipalities which resolved to prepare a general plan and which satisfied the Minister that competent planning profes-

sionals would prepare the plan. The order itself authorized the municipality to exercise development control and pass an interim development control bylaw and resolutions. It also suspended the operation of the municipality's zoning bylaws during the interim period of general plan preparation.

It became clear that having only an advisory role did not give the commissions much authority over land use planning decisions. In 1957, commissions containing a municipality with a population of over 50,000 were given the authority to prepare a district general plan governing land use for the entire district. Once such a district general plan was in place, no municipality could take actions that did not conform with the plan.

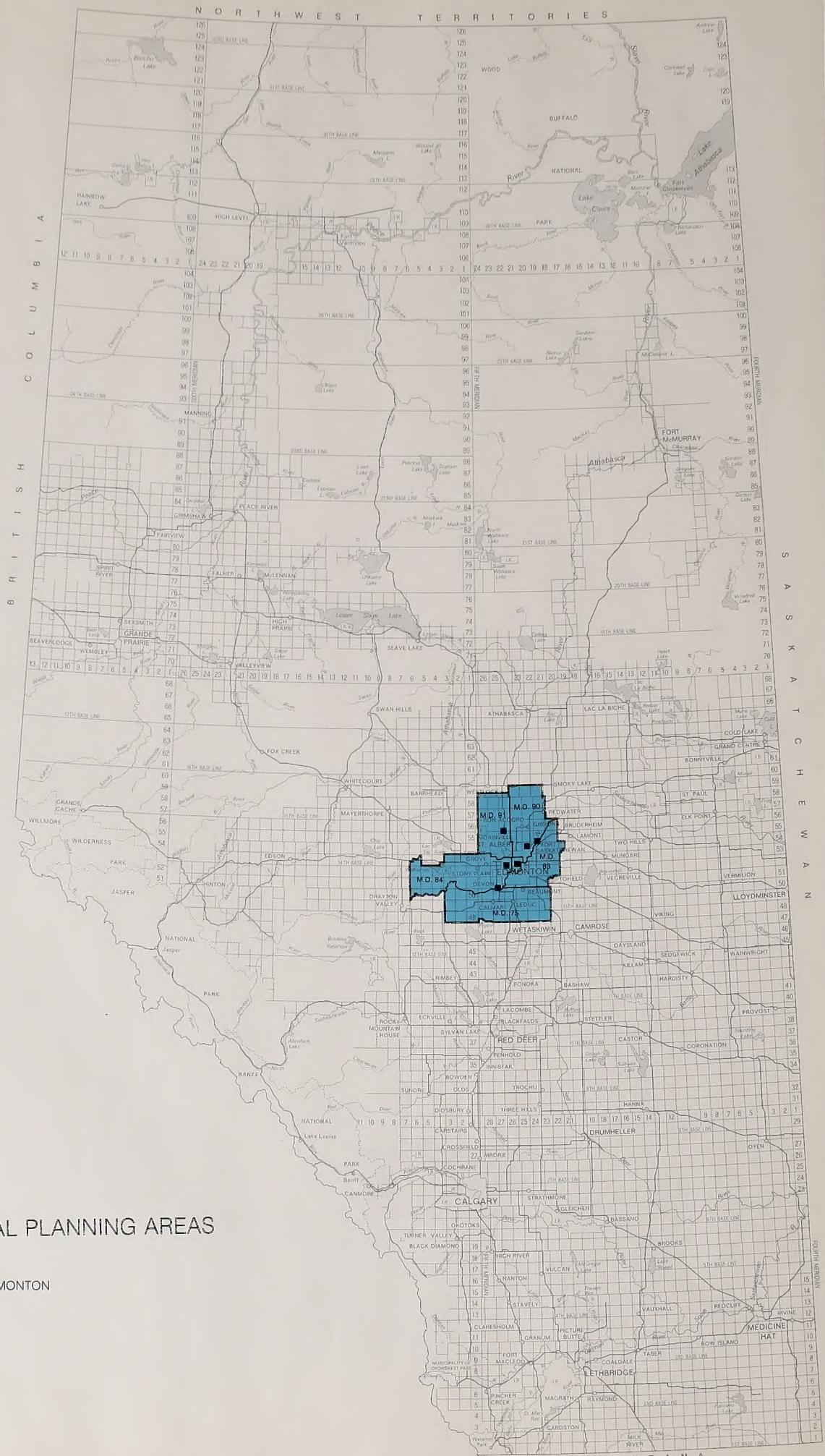
A major rewrite of the Planning Act was undertaken in 1963. The number of bodies handling subdivisions, development applications and appeals was reduced significantly to make the planning process more understandable to the individual. At the local and regional levels, planning decisions were vested in elected officials, except where a delegation of authority was allowed. Public reserves were dedicated to the local authorities instead of the Minister of Public Works and cash in lieu of reserve was made possible. Regional Planning Commissions were required to prepare preliminary regional plans for the purpose of instituting development control during work on a more comprehensive regional plan.

The need for preliminary regional plans was further defined in a 1968 amendment to the Planning Act which made the completion of a preliminary regional plan mandatory by 1972. The continuance of a development control, even after a general plan had been prepared was also permitted in the amended Act.

Since 1968 there have been almost continuous annual amendments to the Planning Act culminating in the major rewriting of the Act in 1977 and its refinement in 1980. For a more comprehensive view of the role of regional planning commissions, please refer to the Planning Act, chapter P-9 Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980, a copy of which can be obtained from Queen's Printer, 11510 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2Y5.

As per the Town and Rural Planning Act, the Planning Act, and the Regulations Act, a municipality is not an official member of a Planning Commission until the filing date of the Regulation governing it. This may lead to some confusion since some municipalities may have already been aligned with their Commission activities for some time prior to their regulations being filed.

In some cases a regulation may have been filed in error, omitting some members from a Commission. Since this is the only method we have of determining Commission membership, these maps will show only the membership as described in the Regulations.



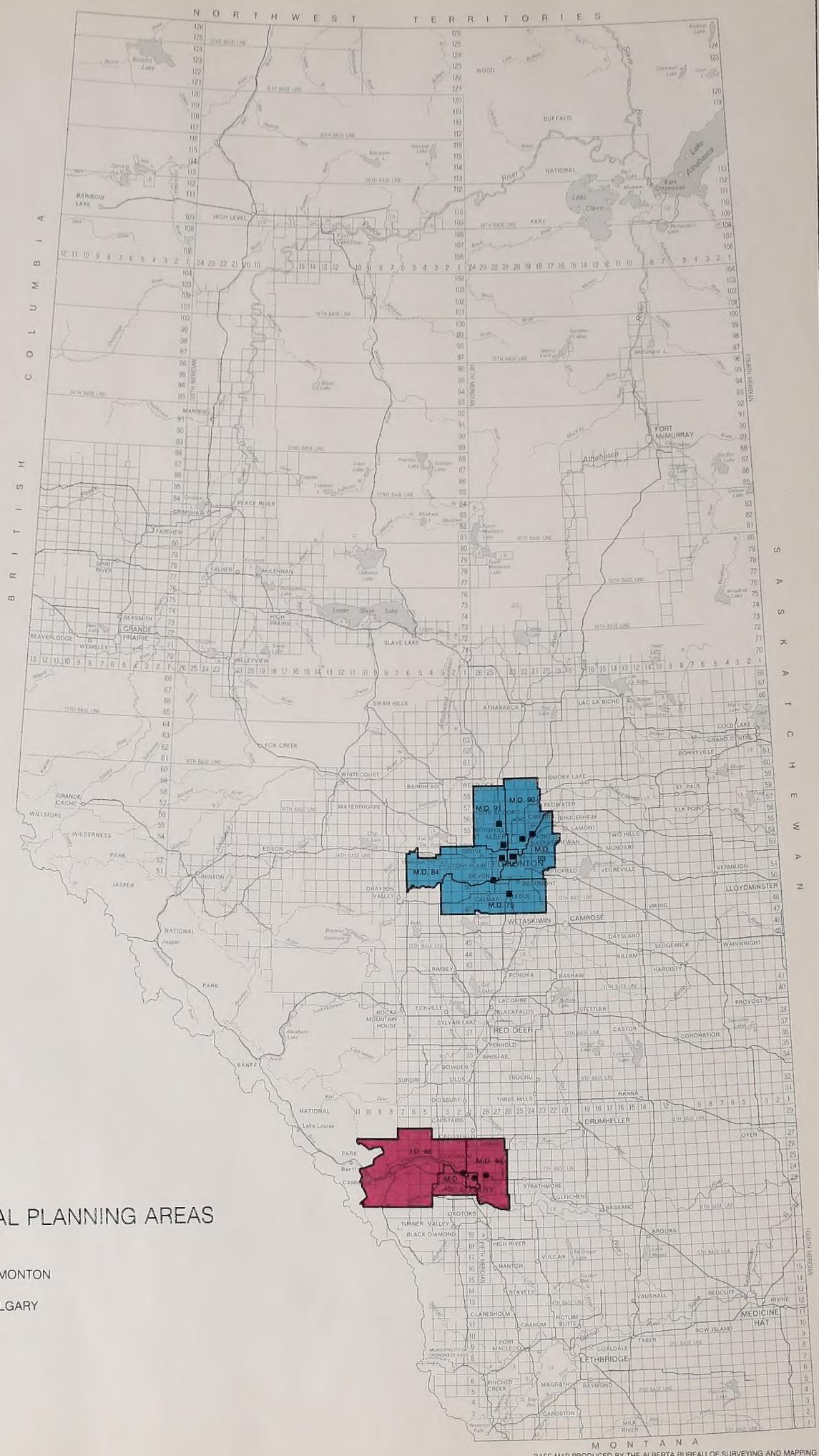
1950

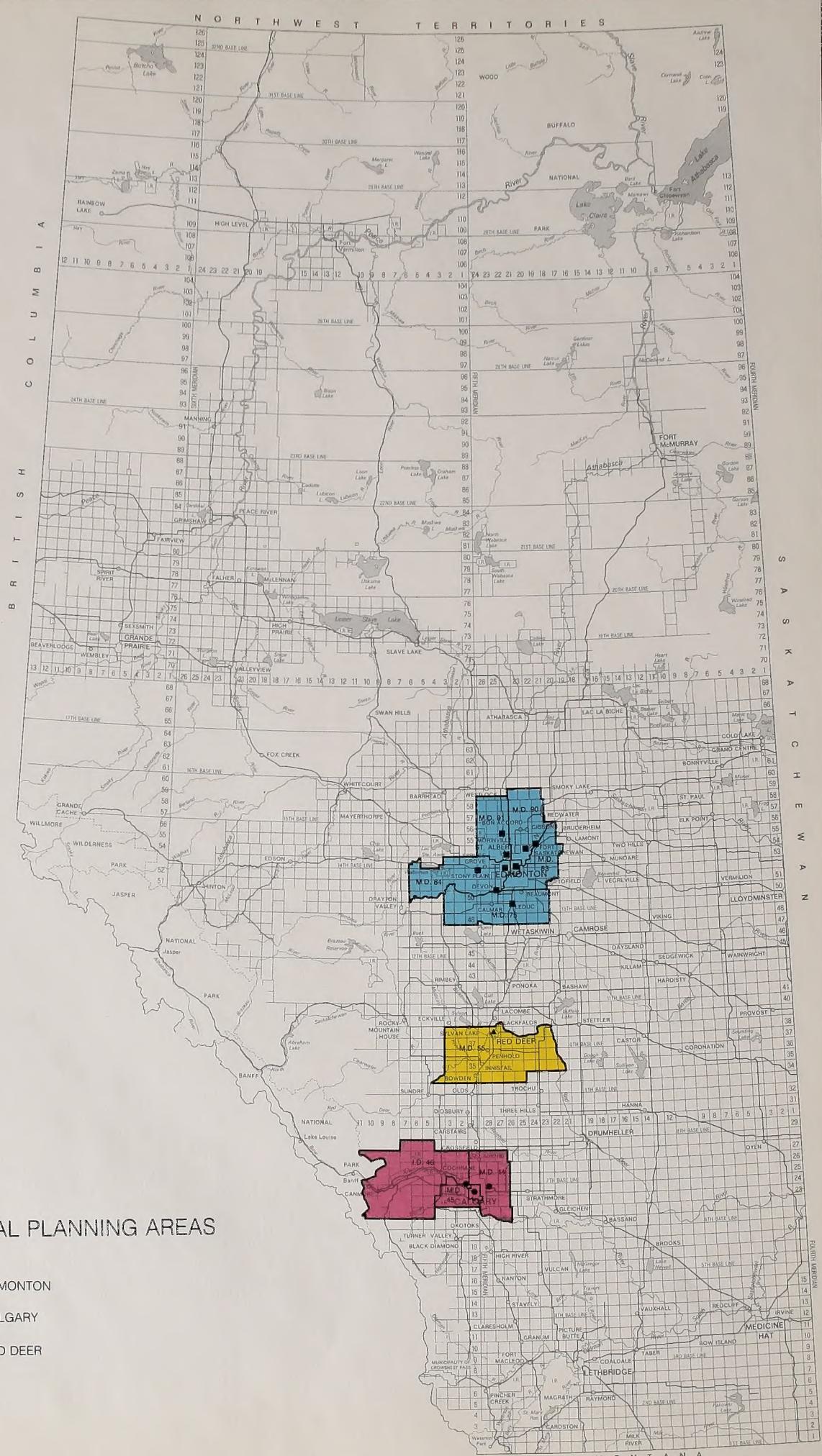
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REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

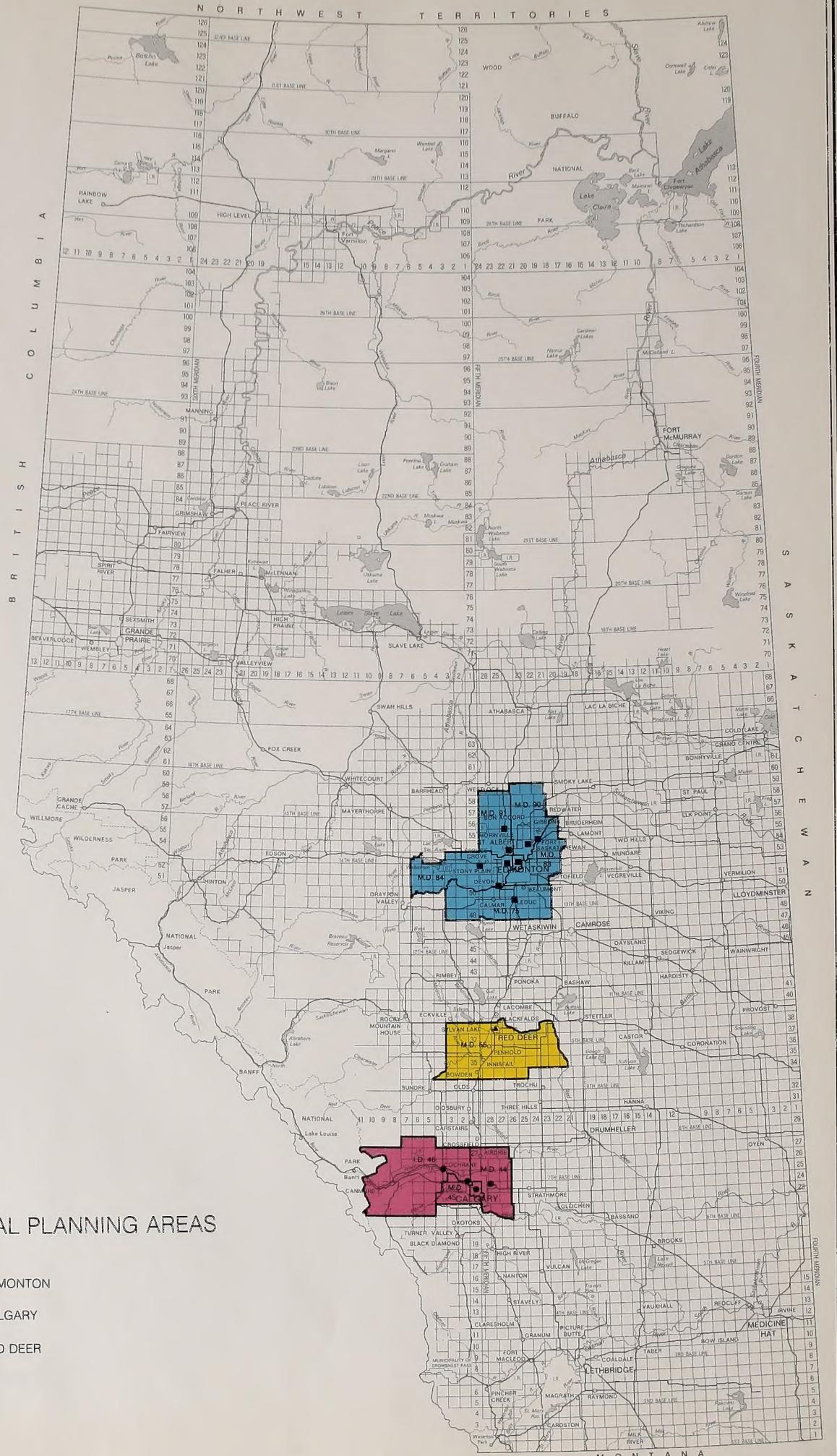


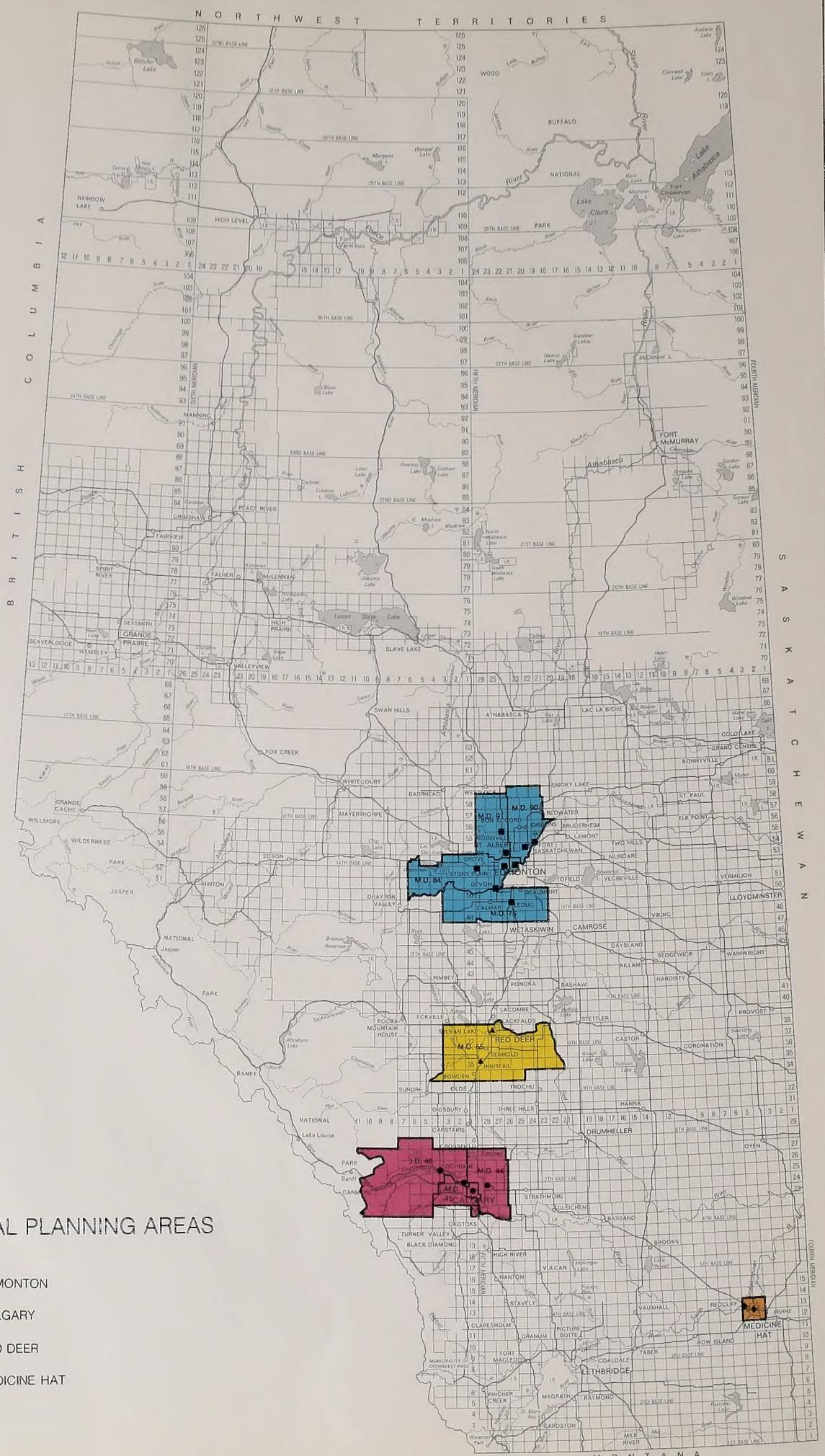
MONTANA
BASE MAP PRODUCED BY THE ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING
PLANNING COMMISSION INFORMATION COMPILED BY ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS





BASE MAP PRODUCED BY THE ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING
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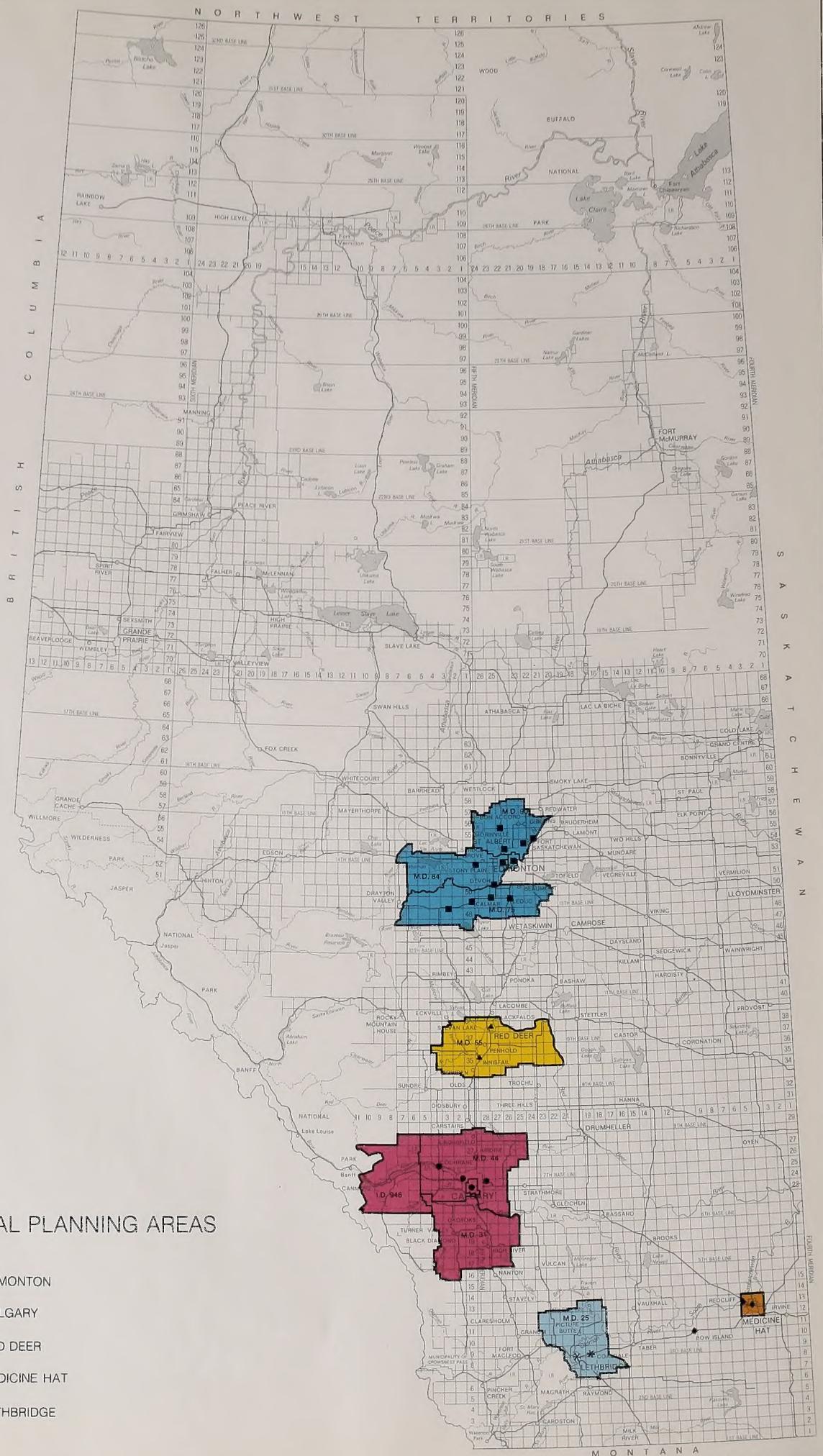


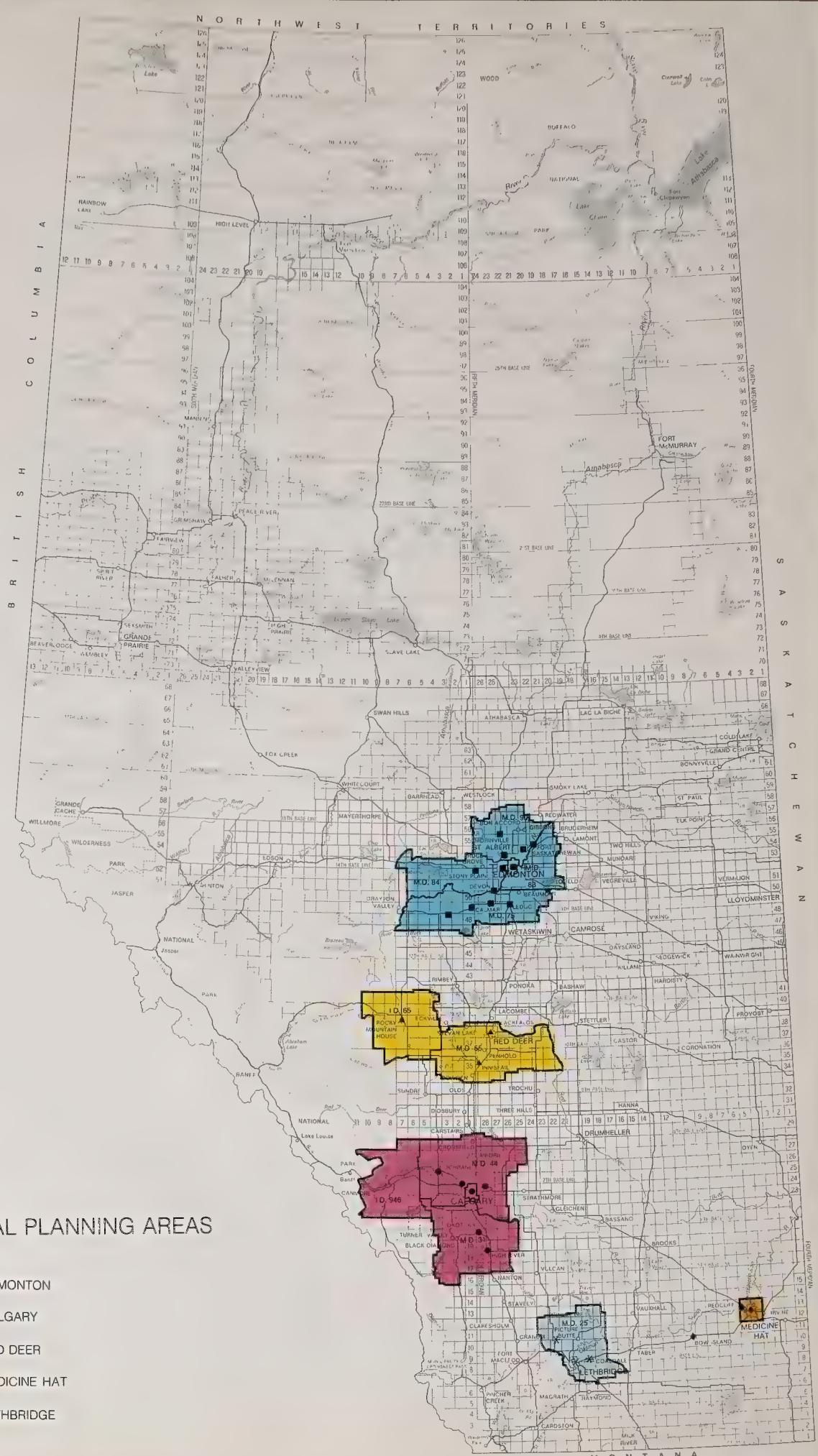


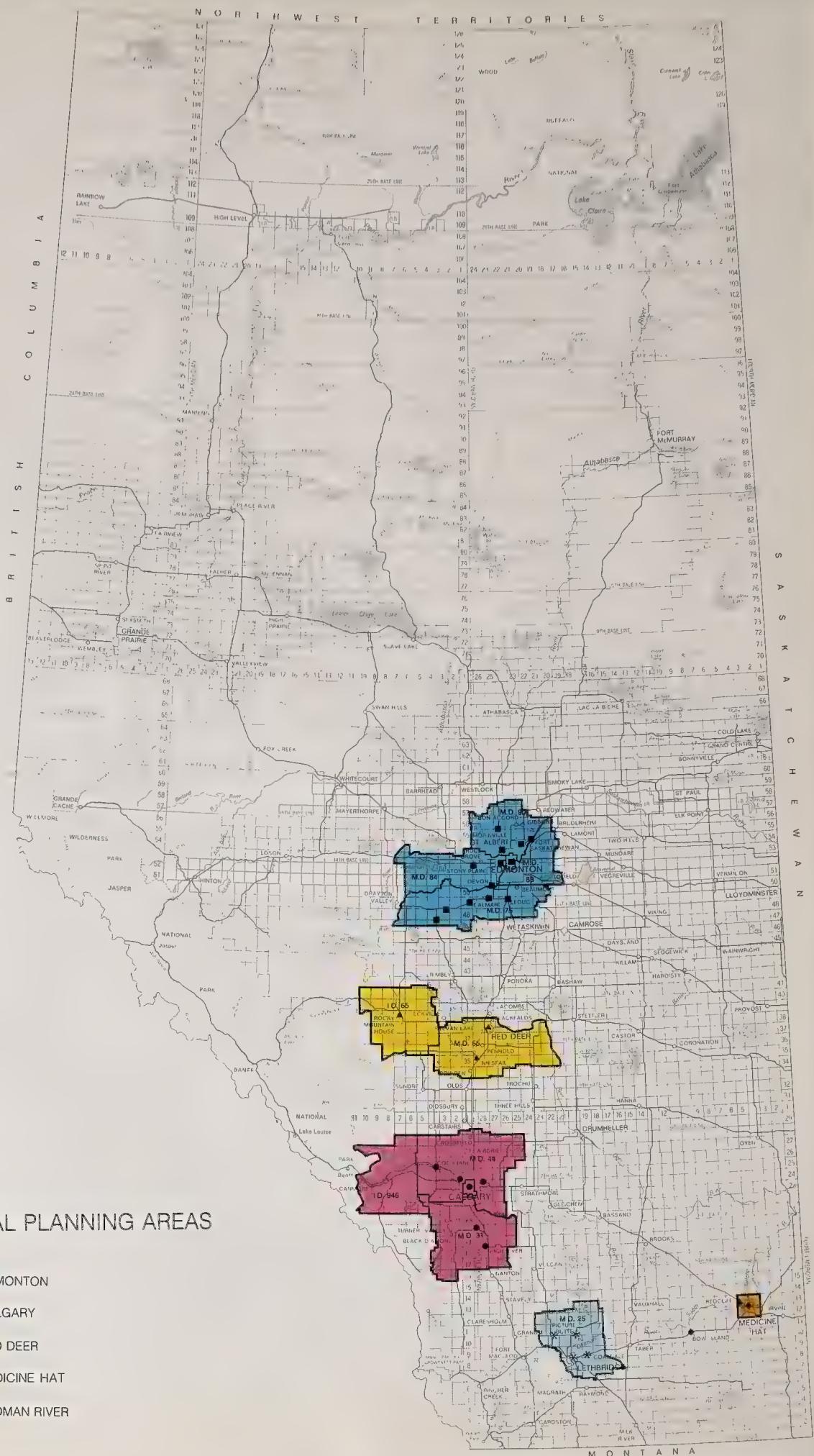
1954

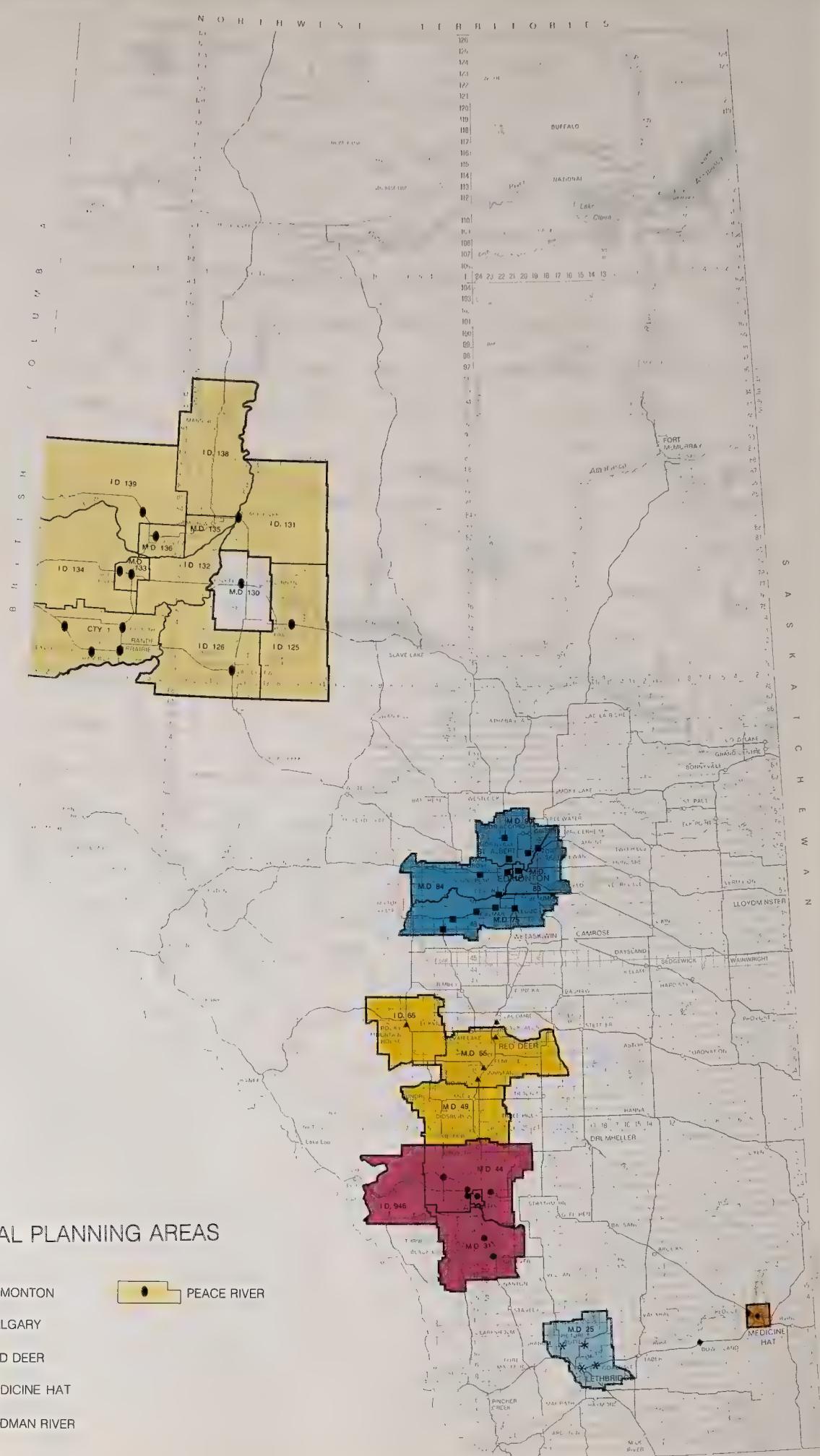
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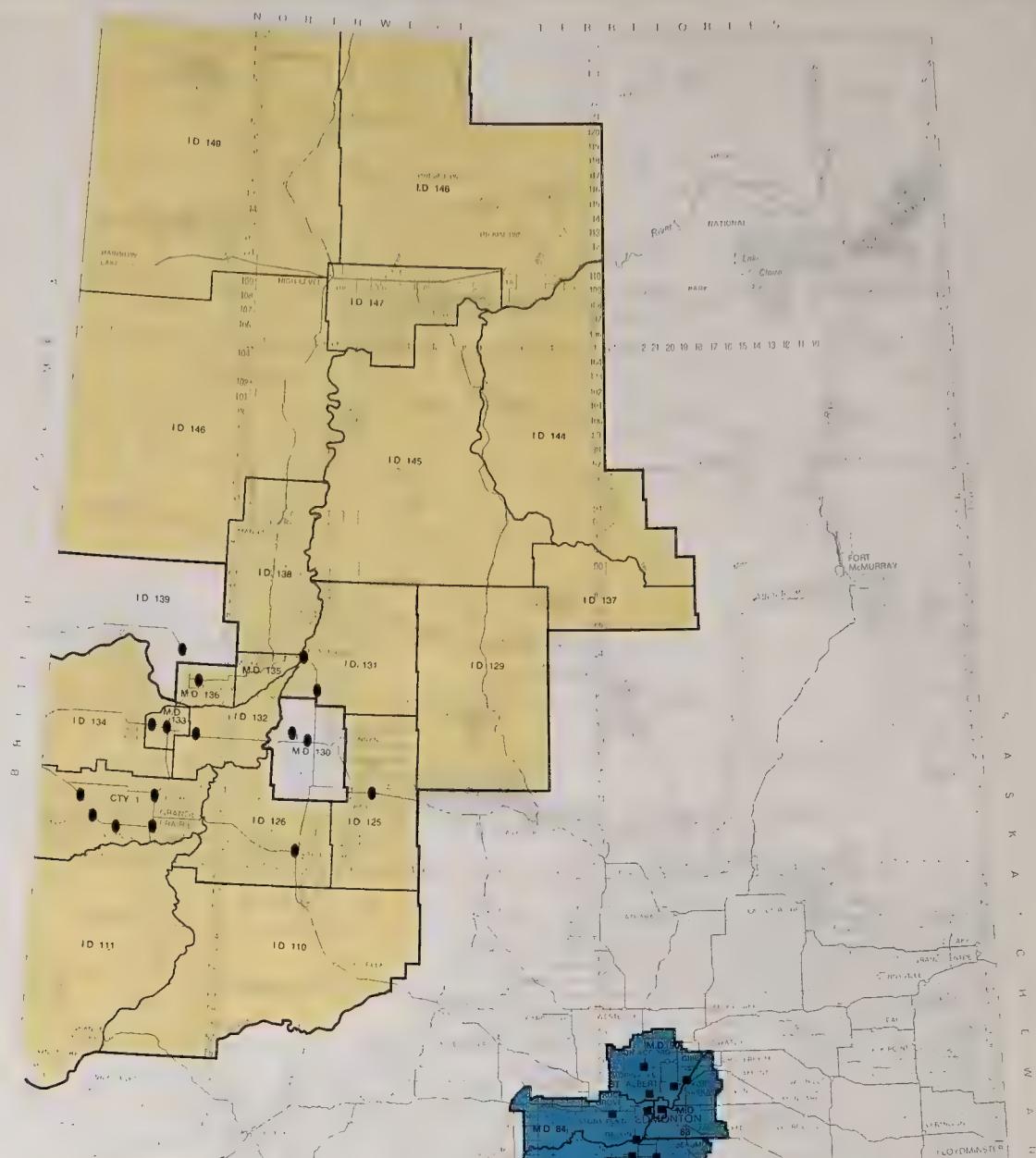
REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS









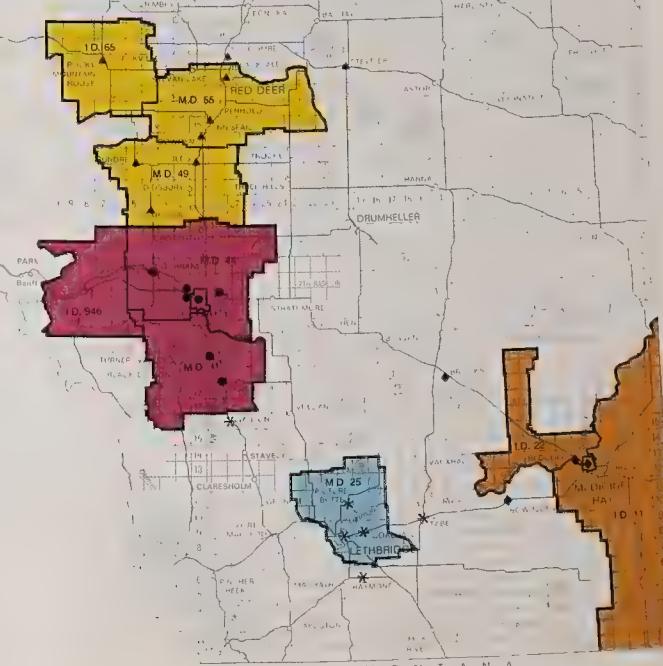


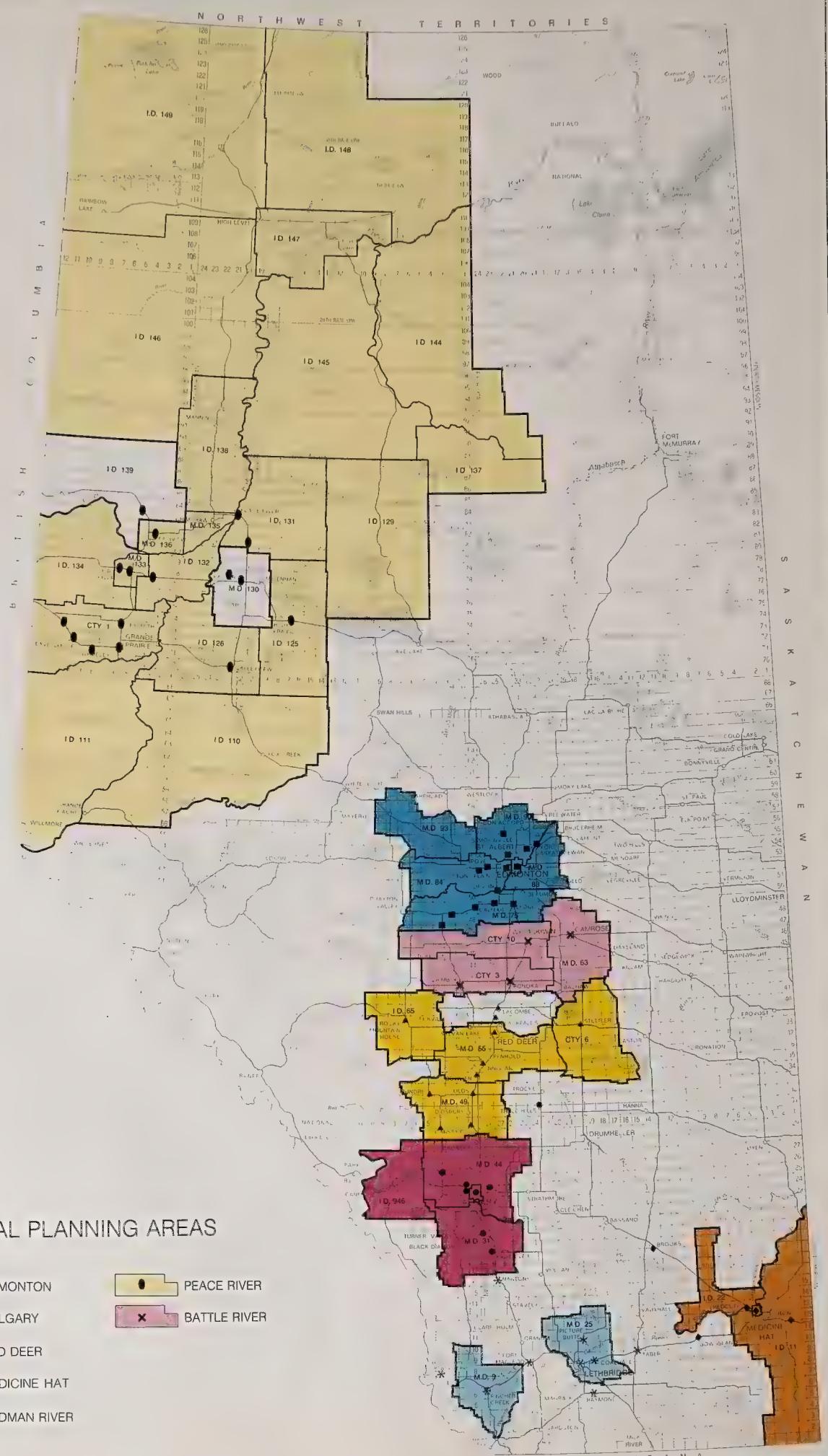
1959

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REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

- EDMONTON
- PEACE RIVER
- CALGARY
- RED DEER
- MEDICINE HAT
- OLDMAN RIVER



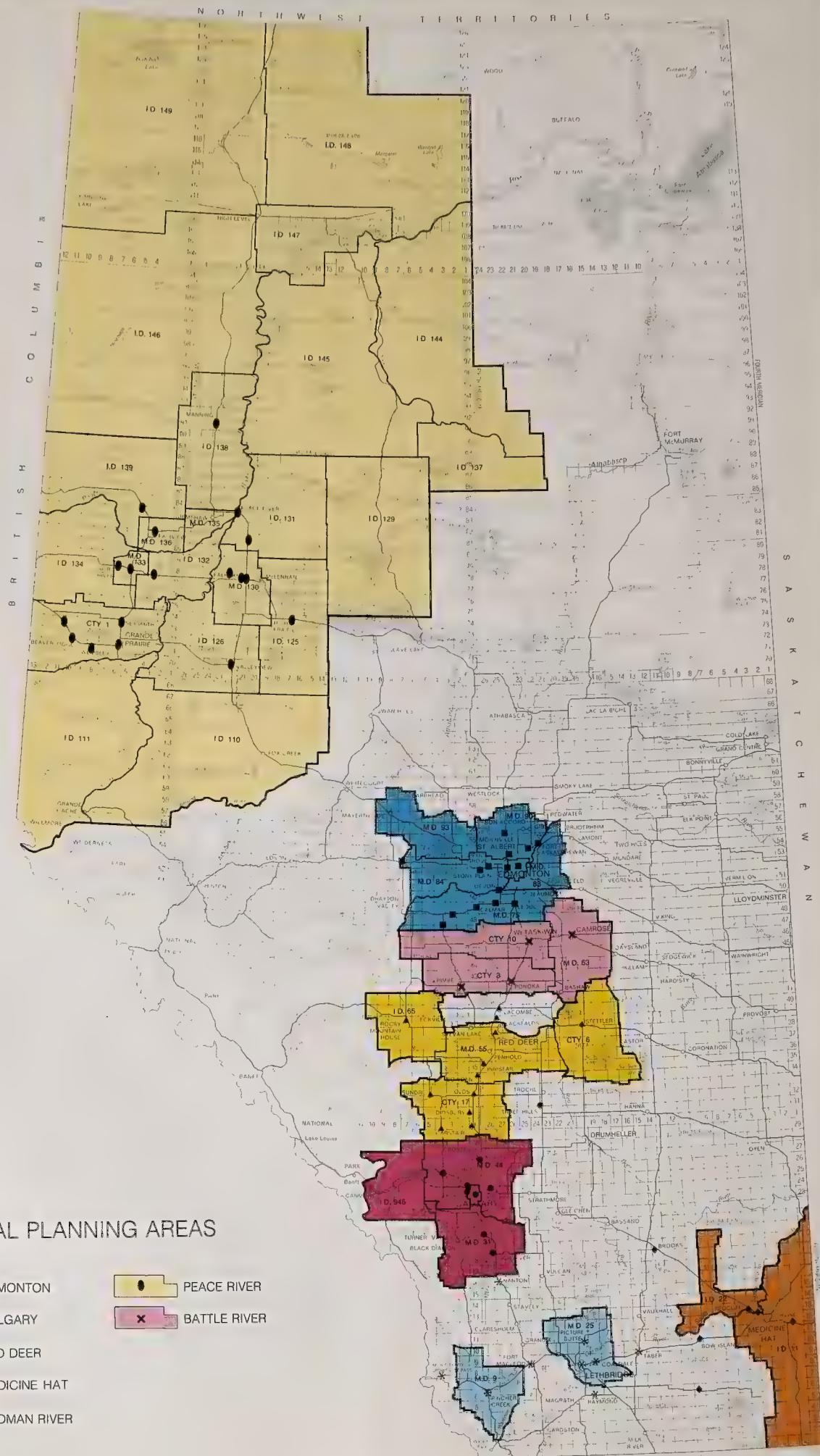


1960

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REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

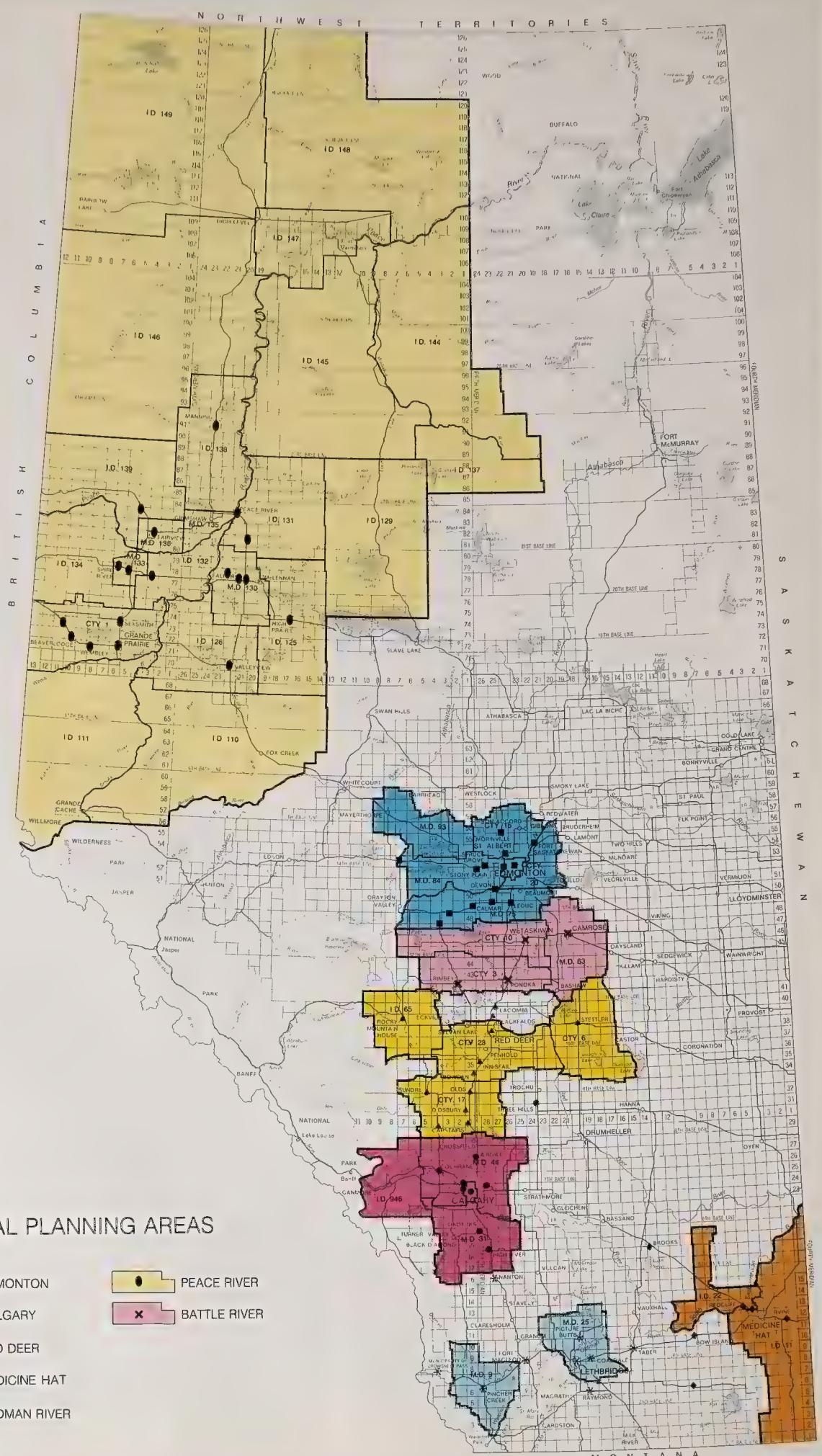
A map of Alberta, Canada, showing the locations of several rivers and cities. The rivers shown are the Peace River, Battle River, Oldman River, and the Bow and South Saskatchewan Rivers. The cities shown are Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer. Each location is marked with a small icon representing the river or city name.

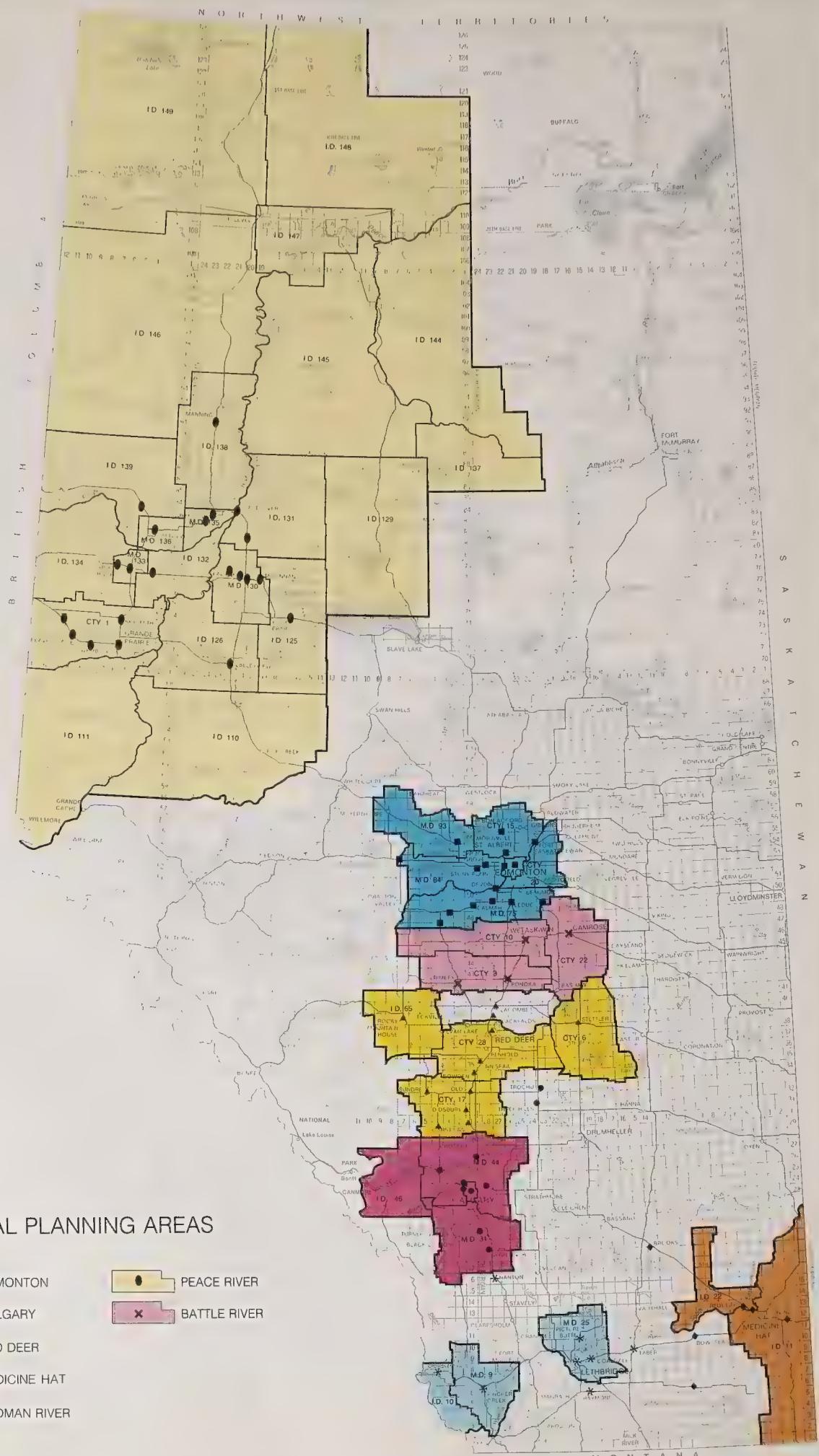


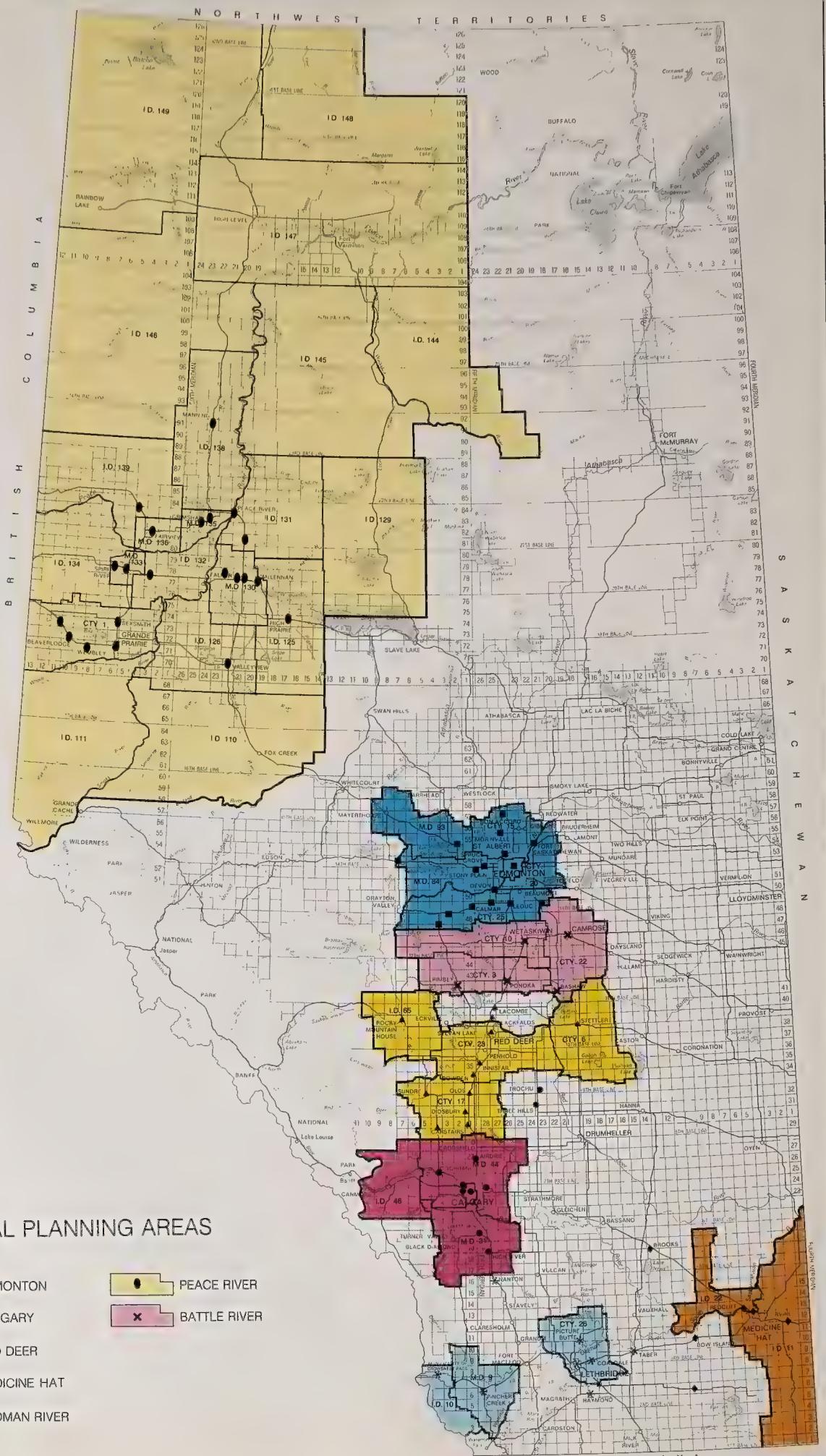
1961

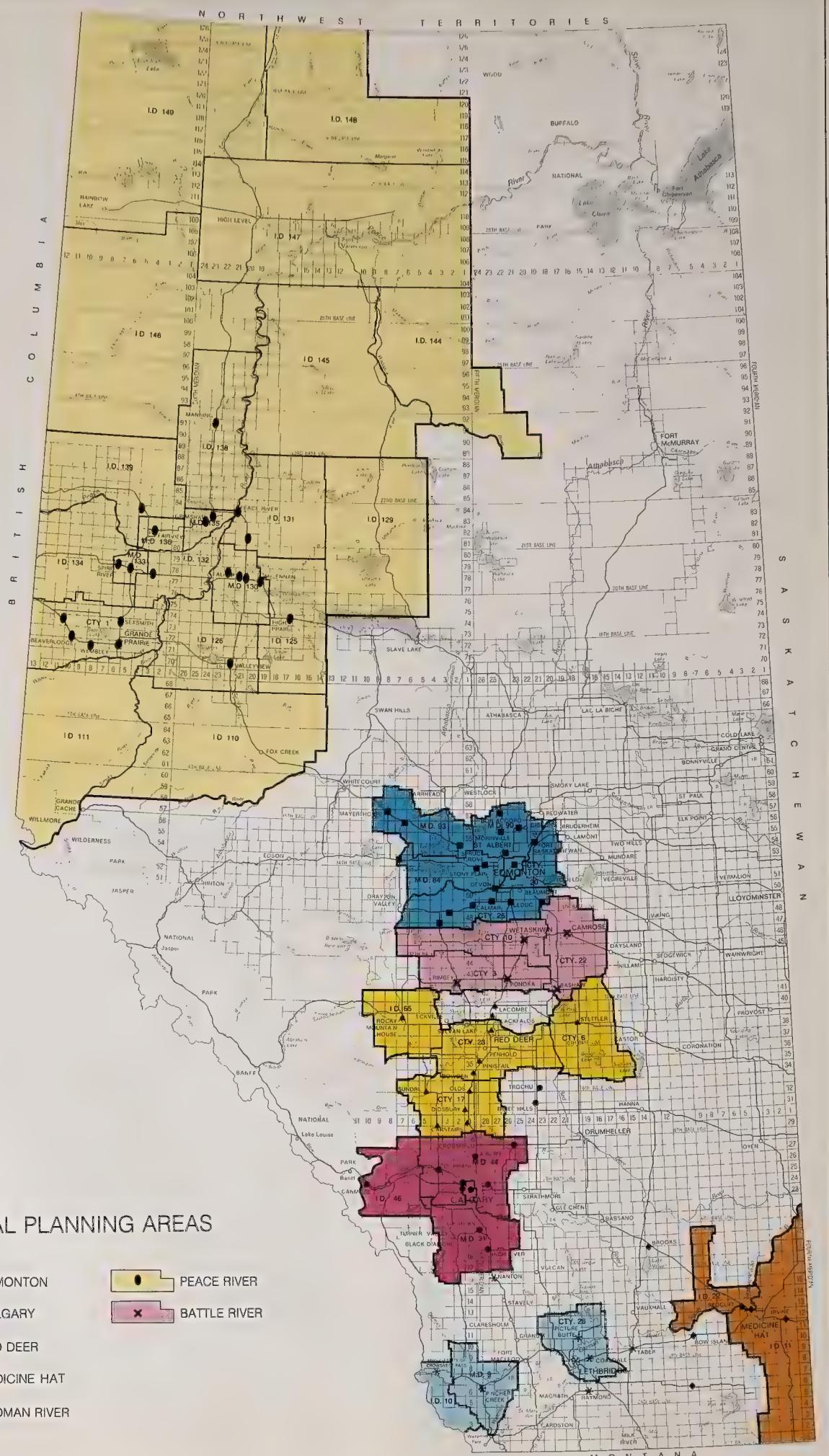
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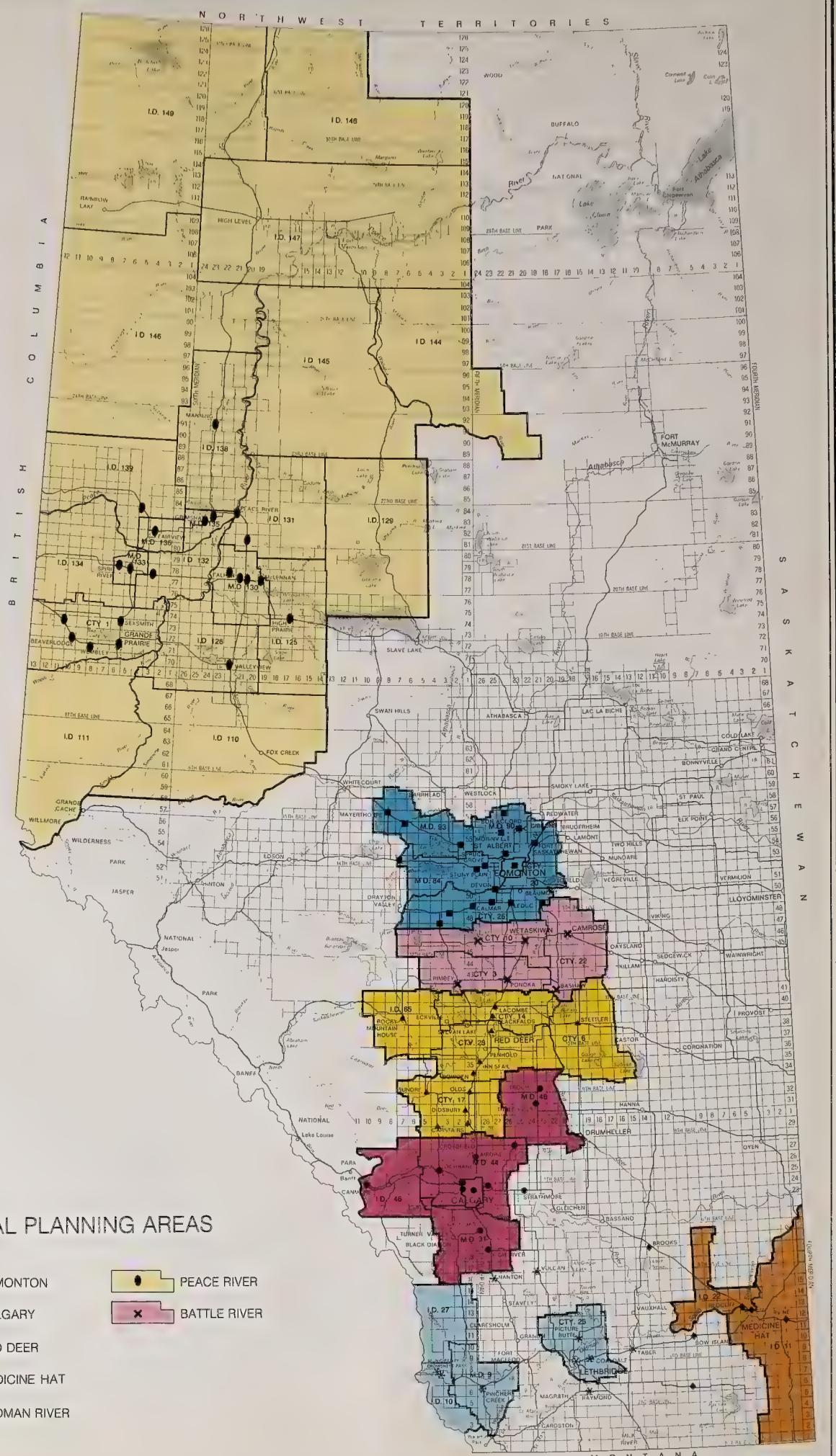
REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS



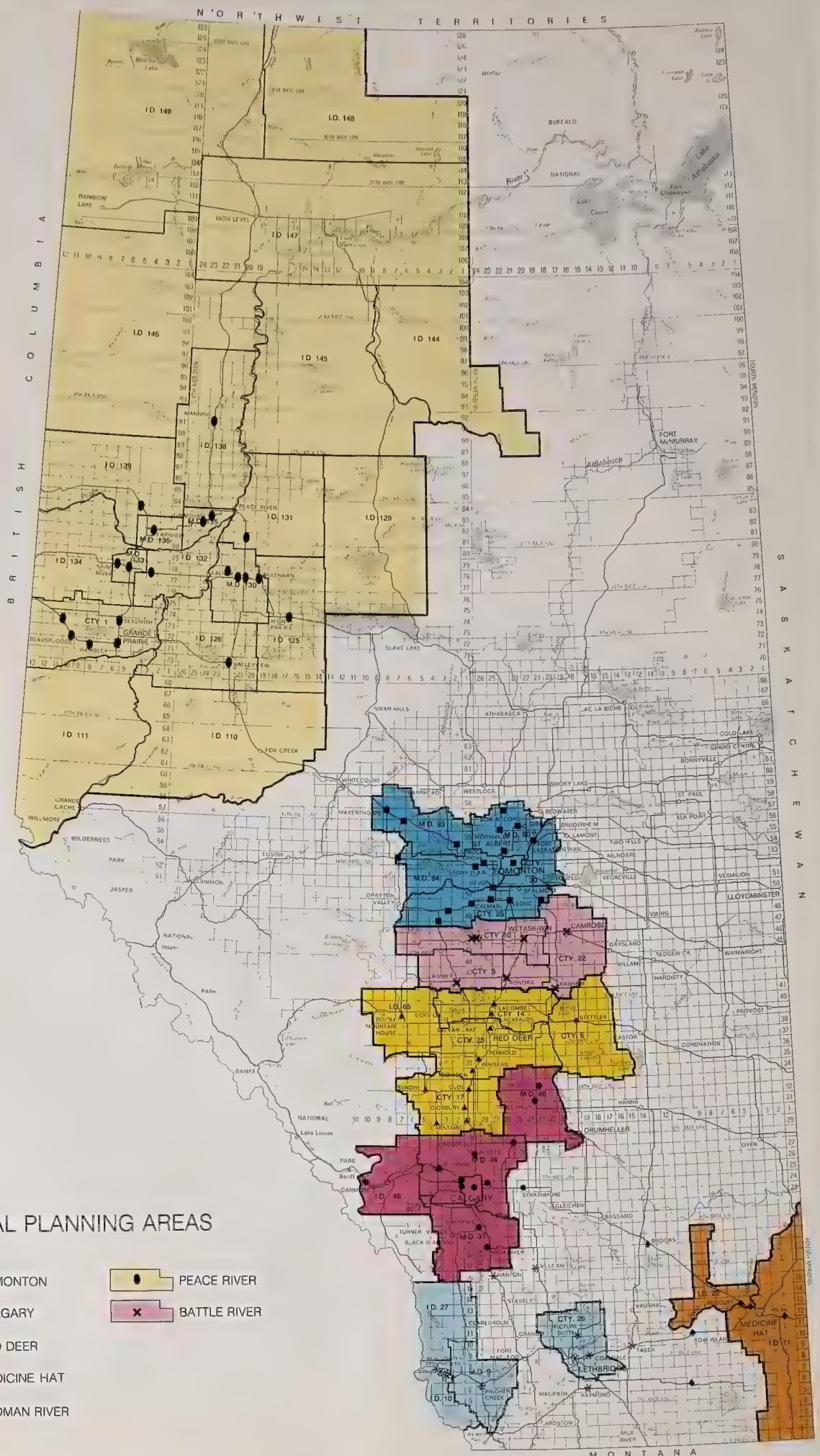




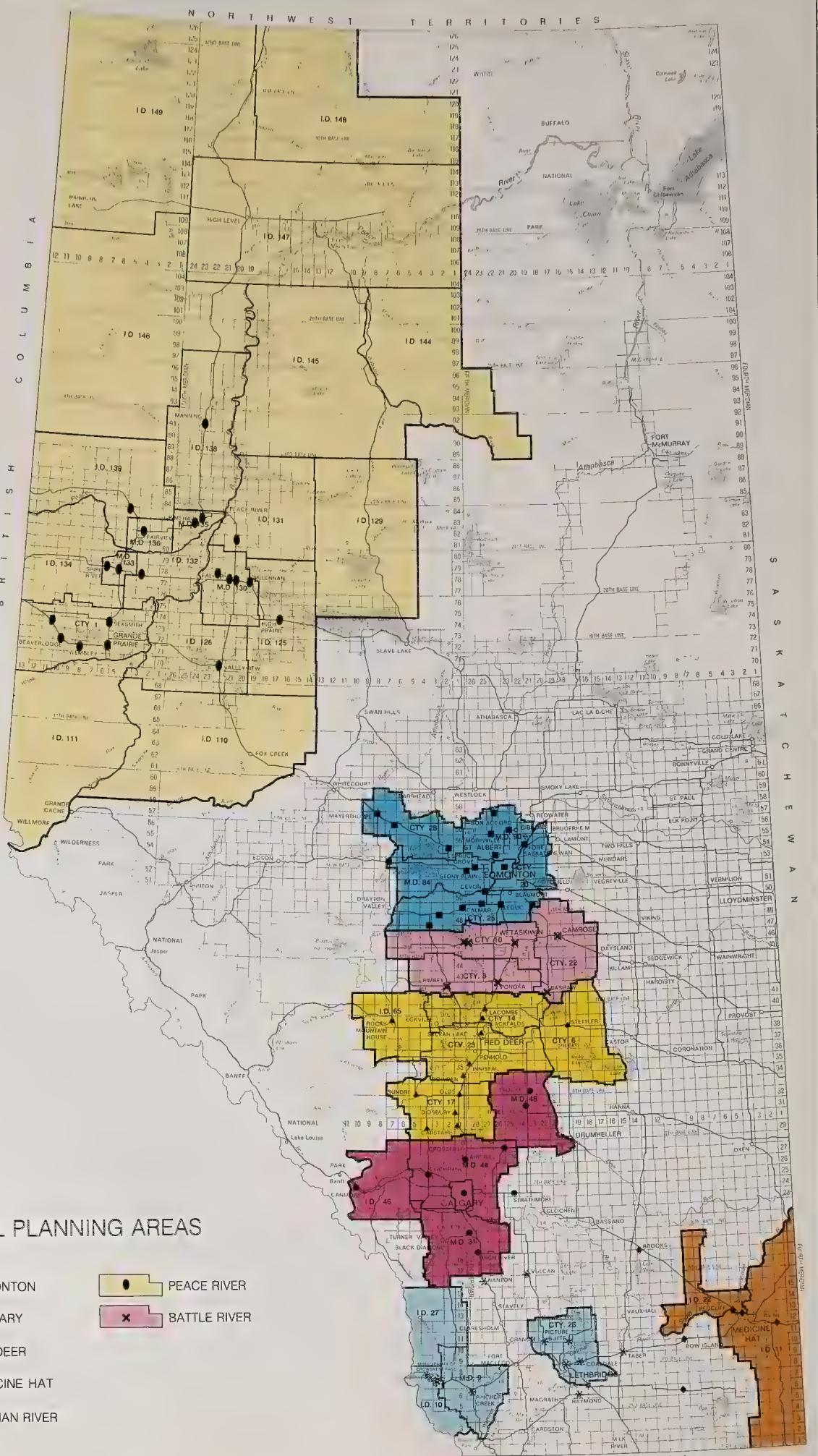


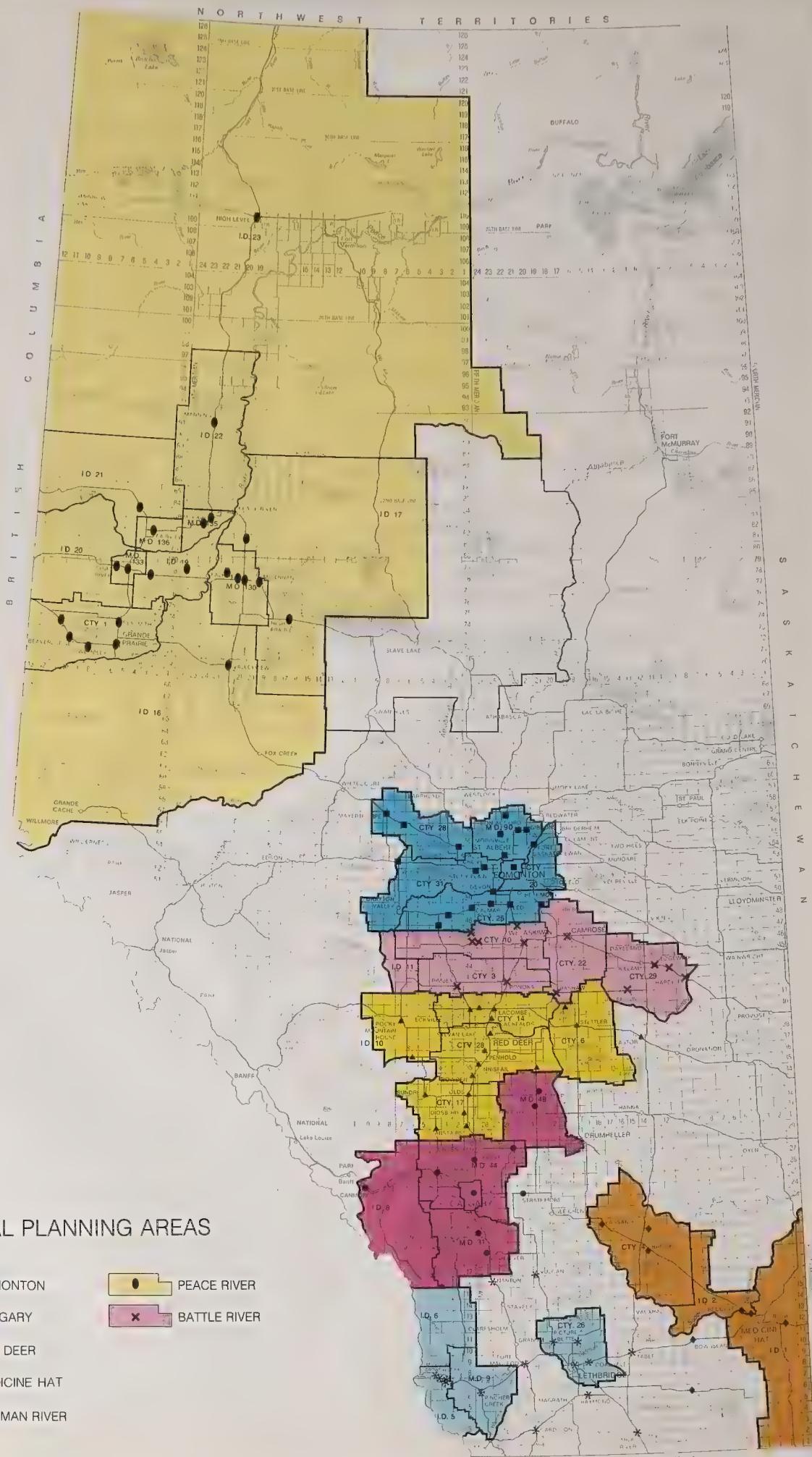


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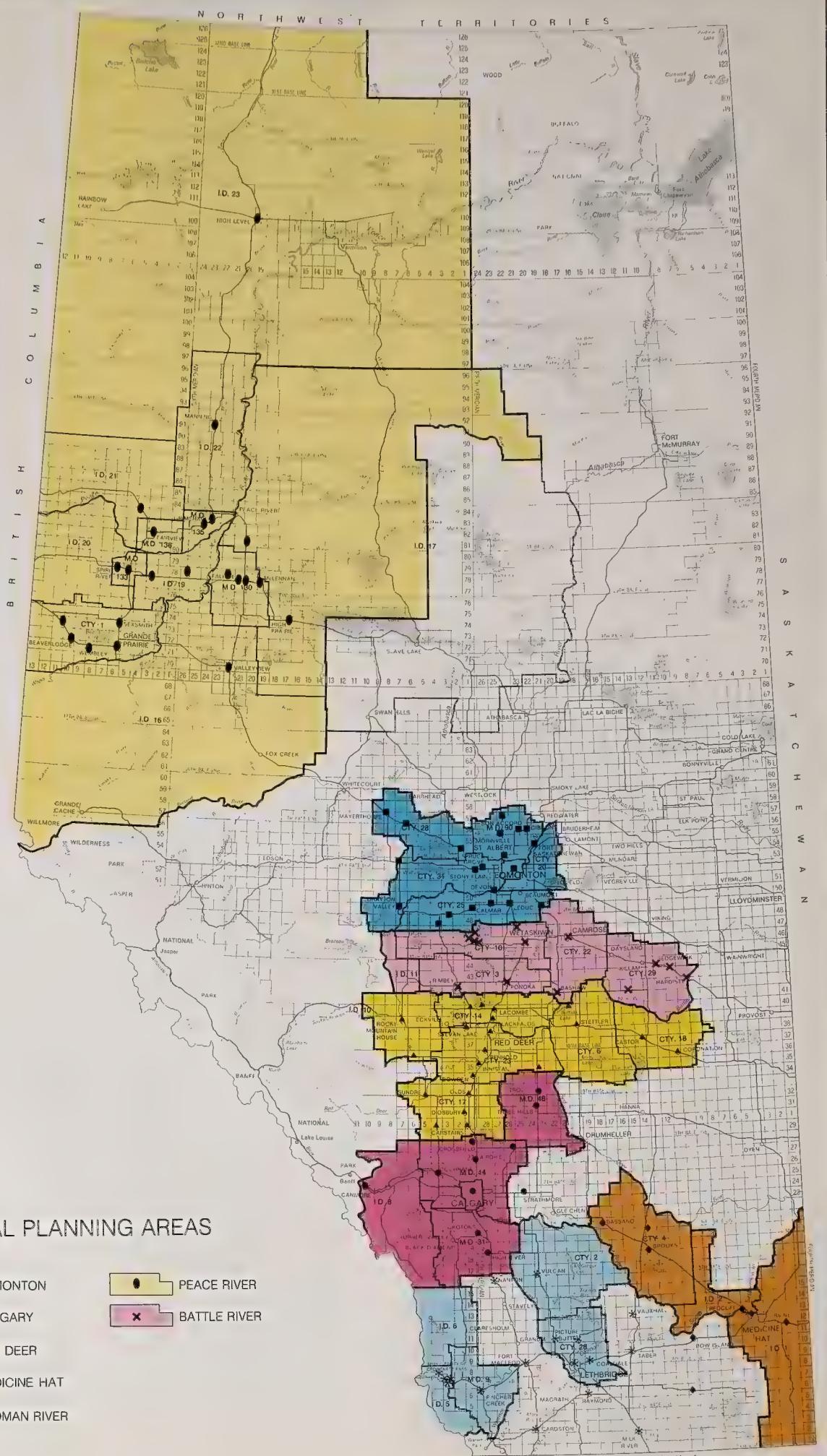


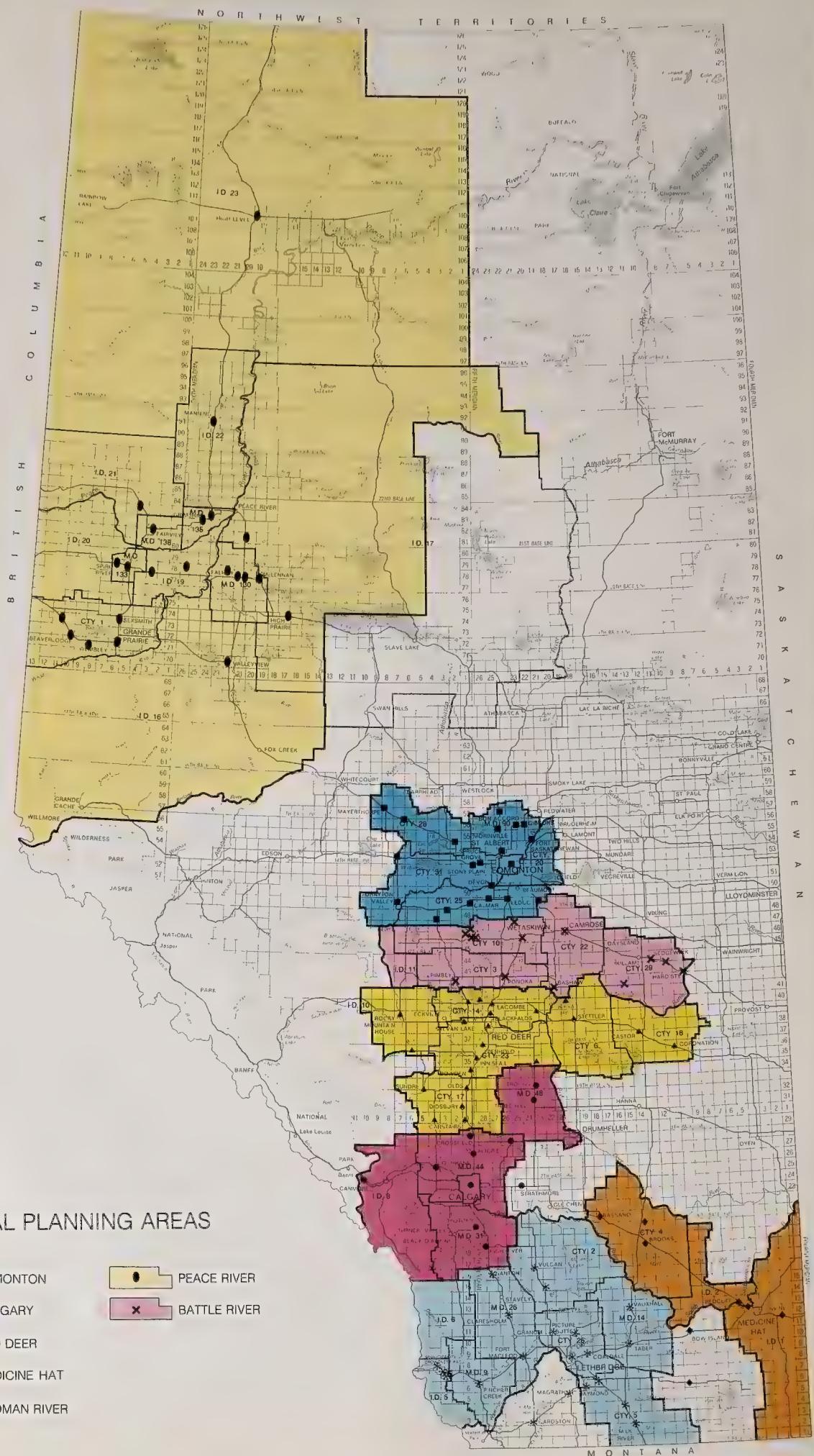


1969

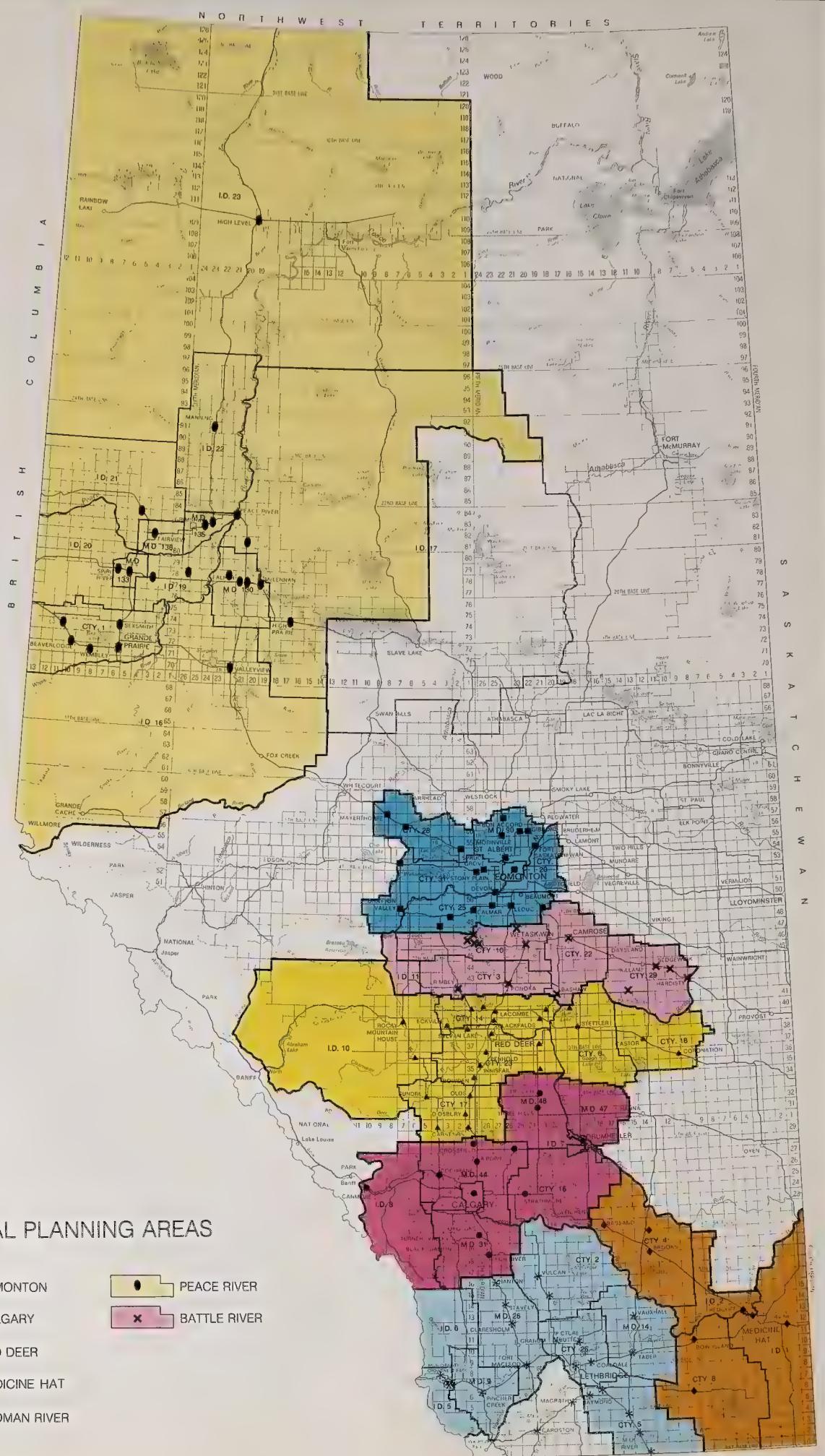
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REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

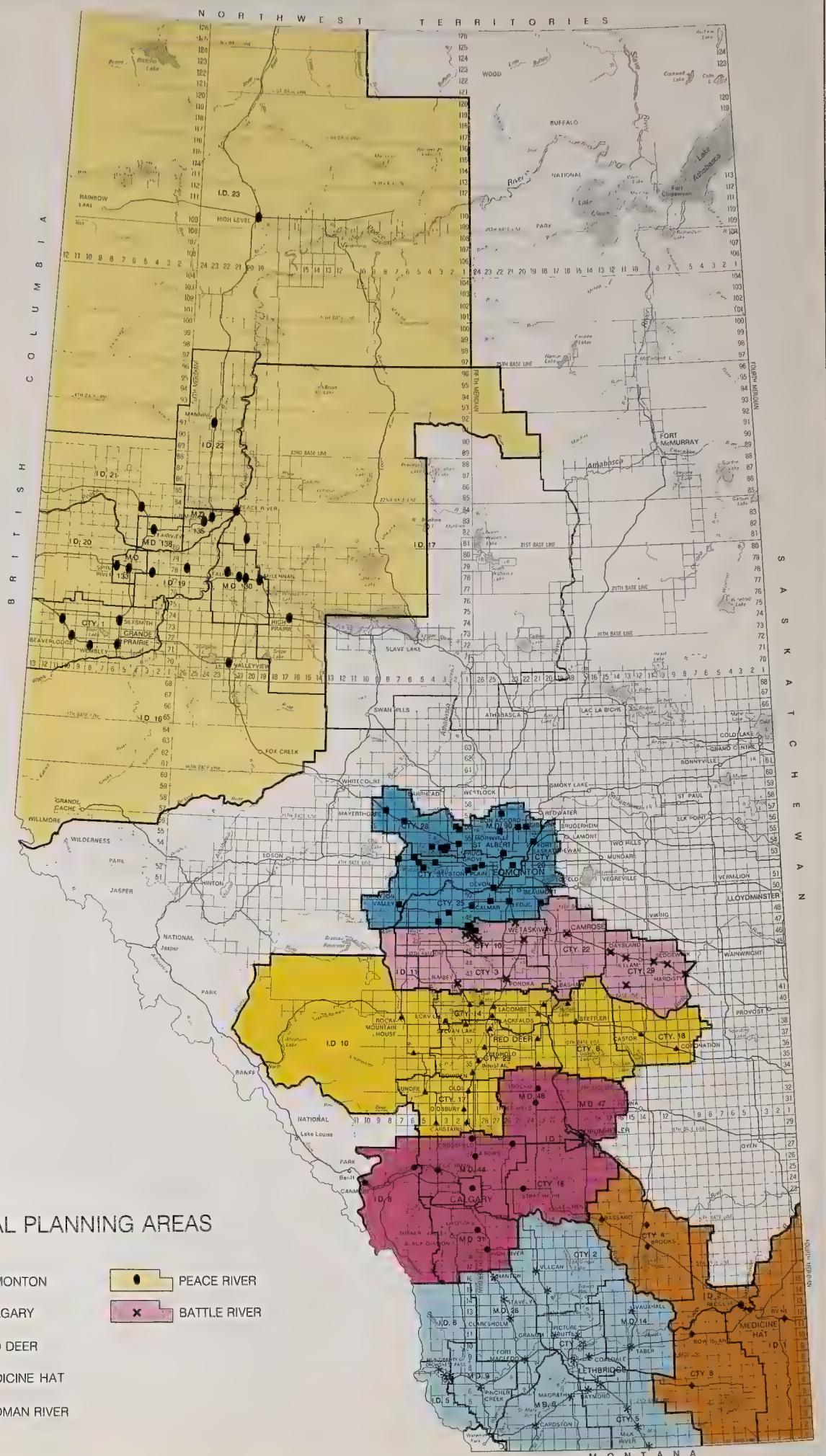




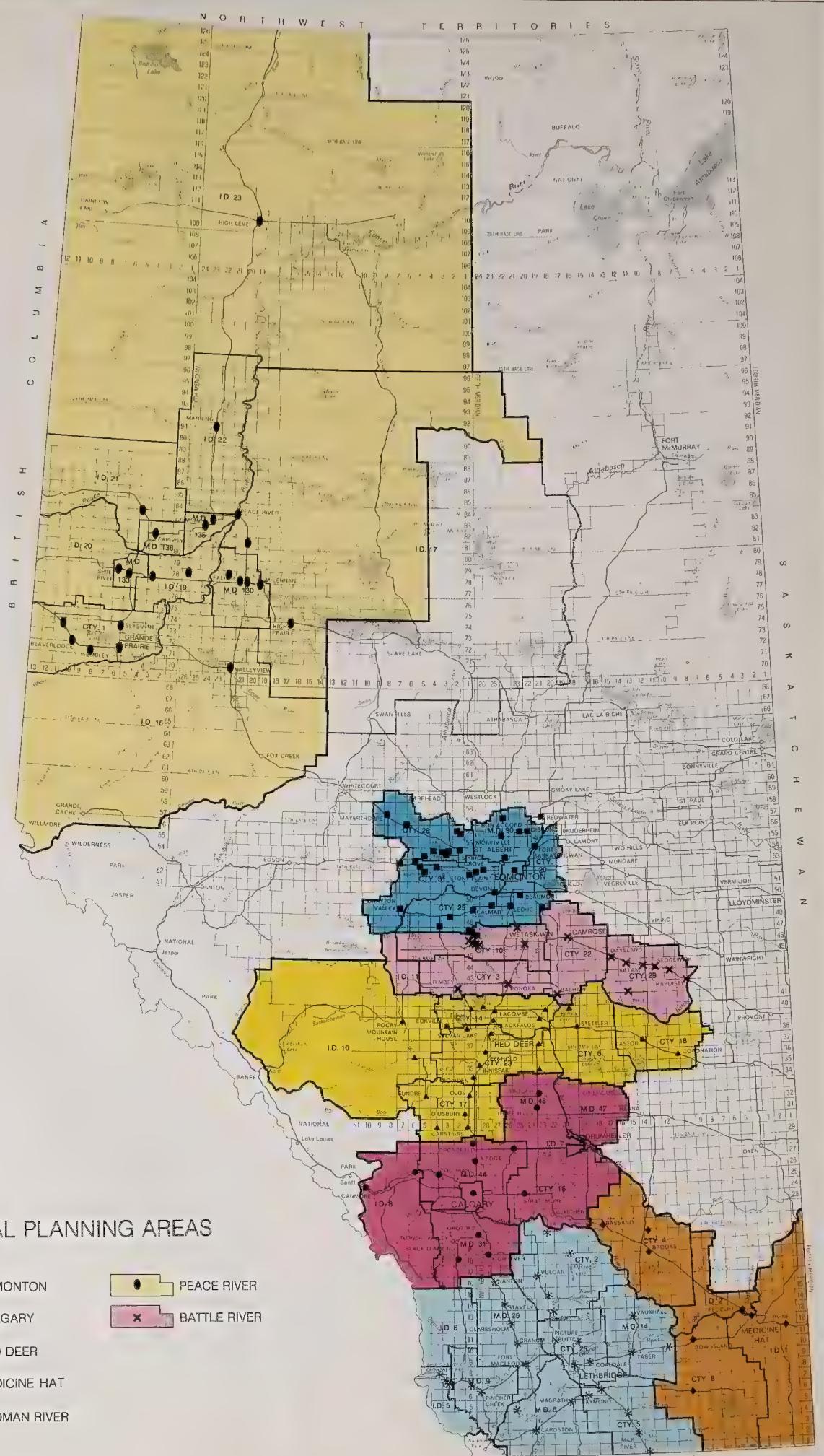
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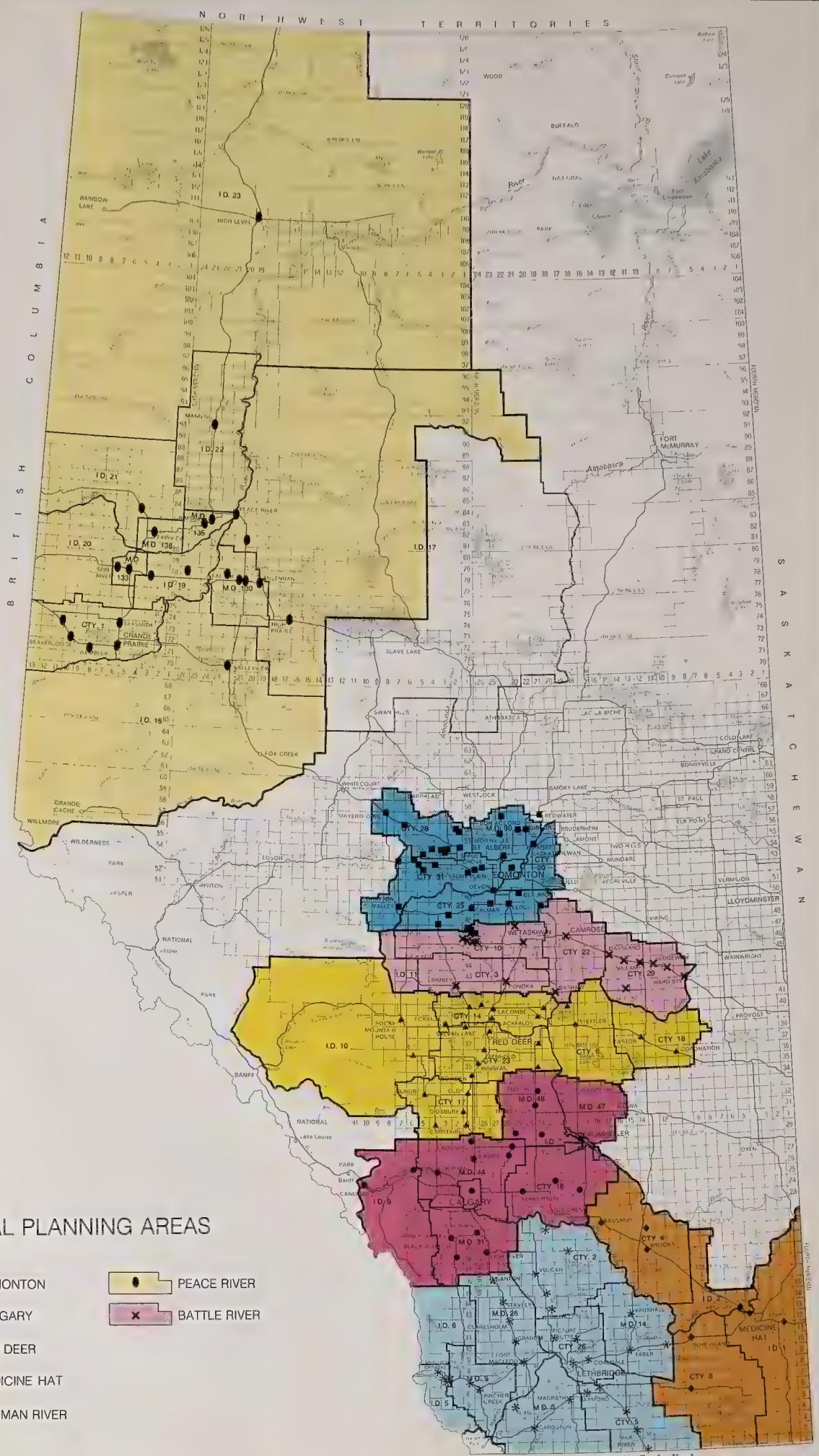
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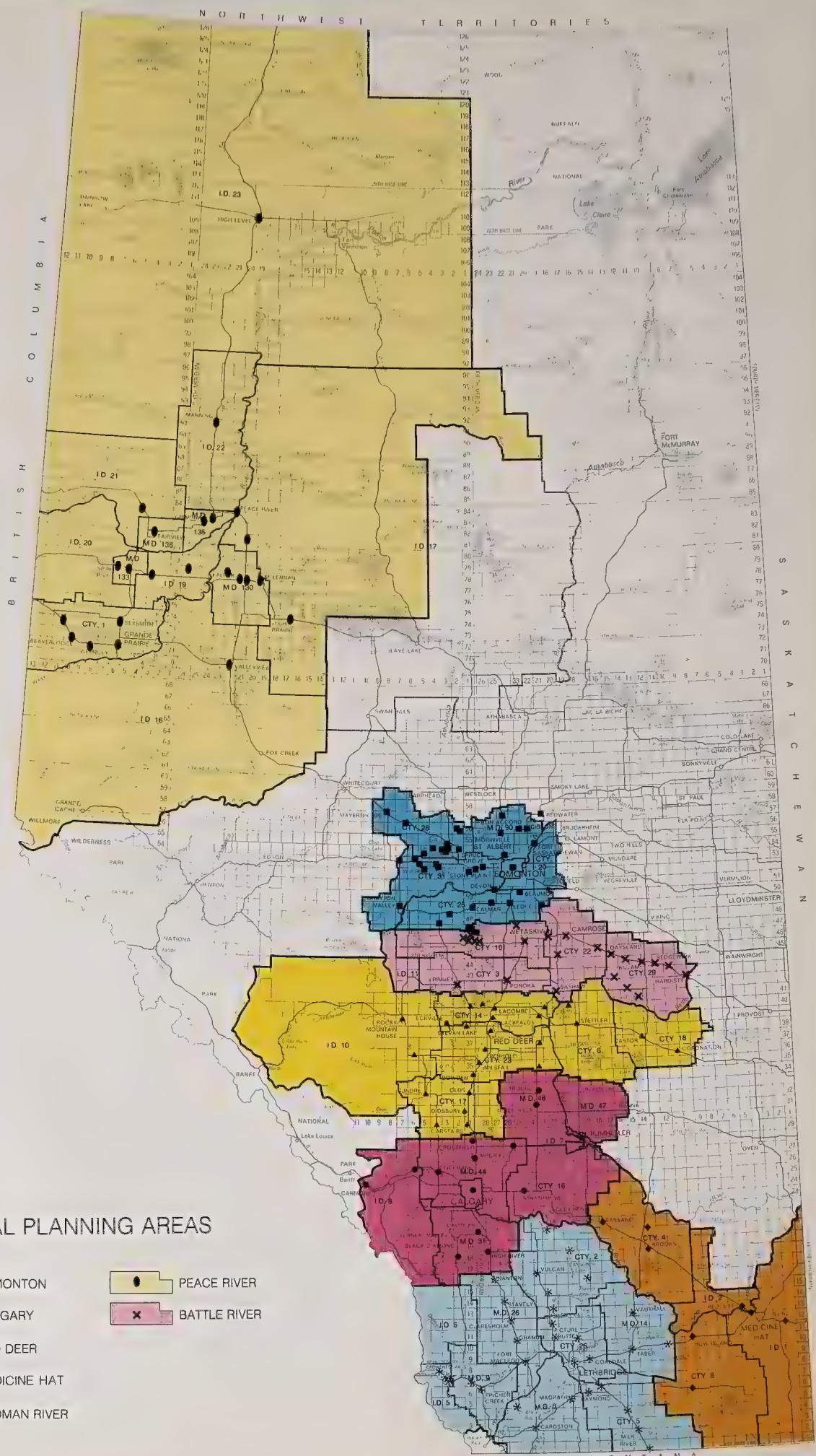


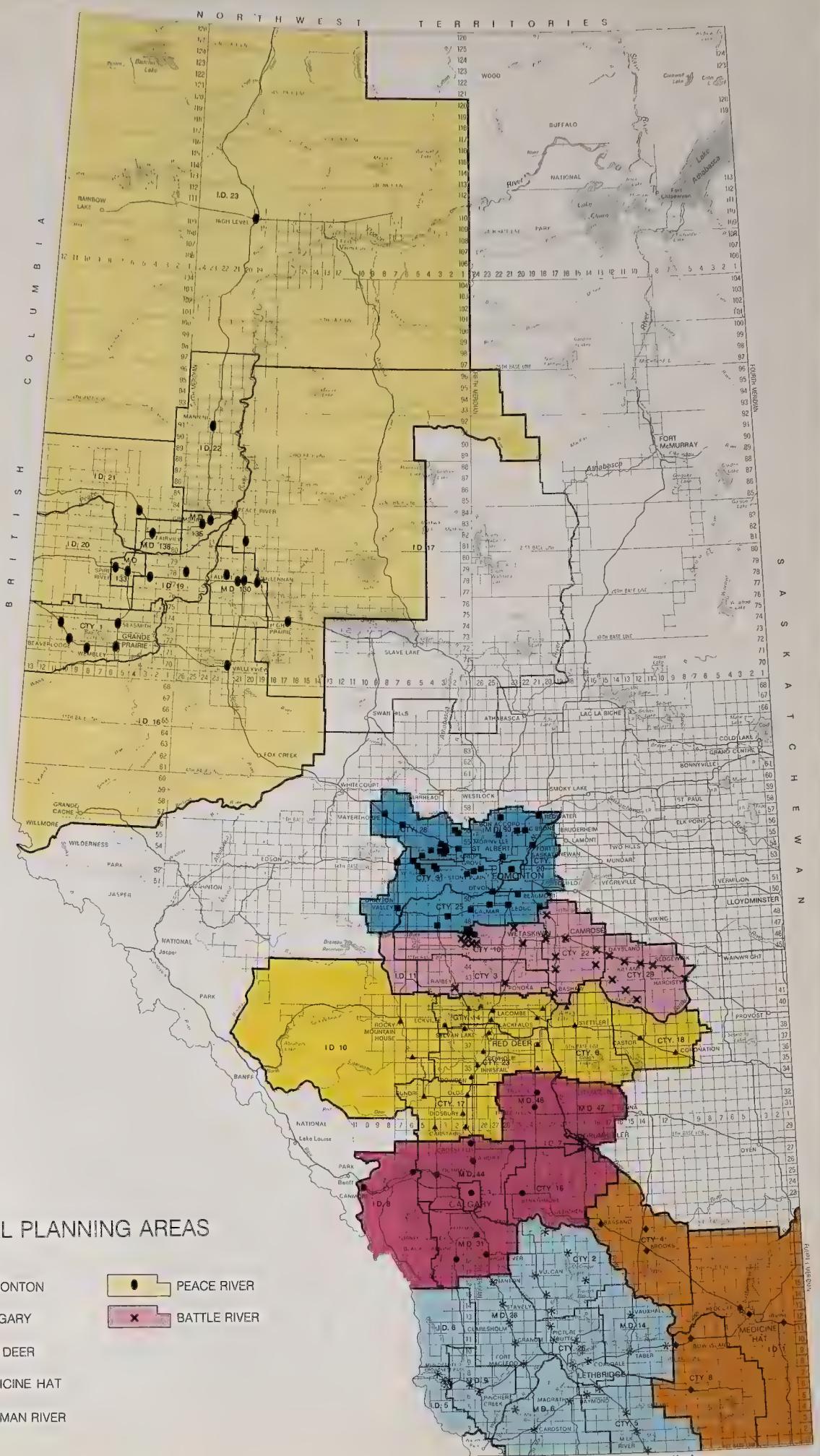
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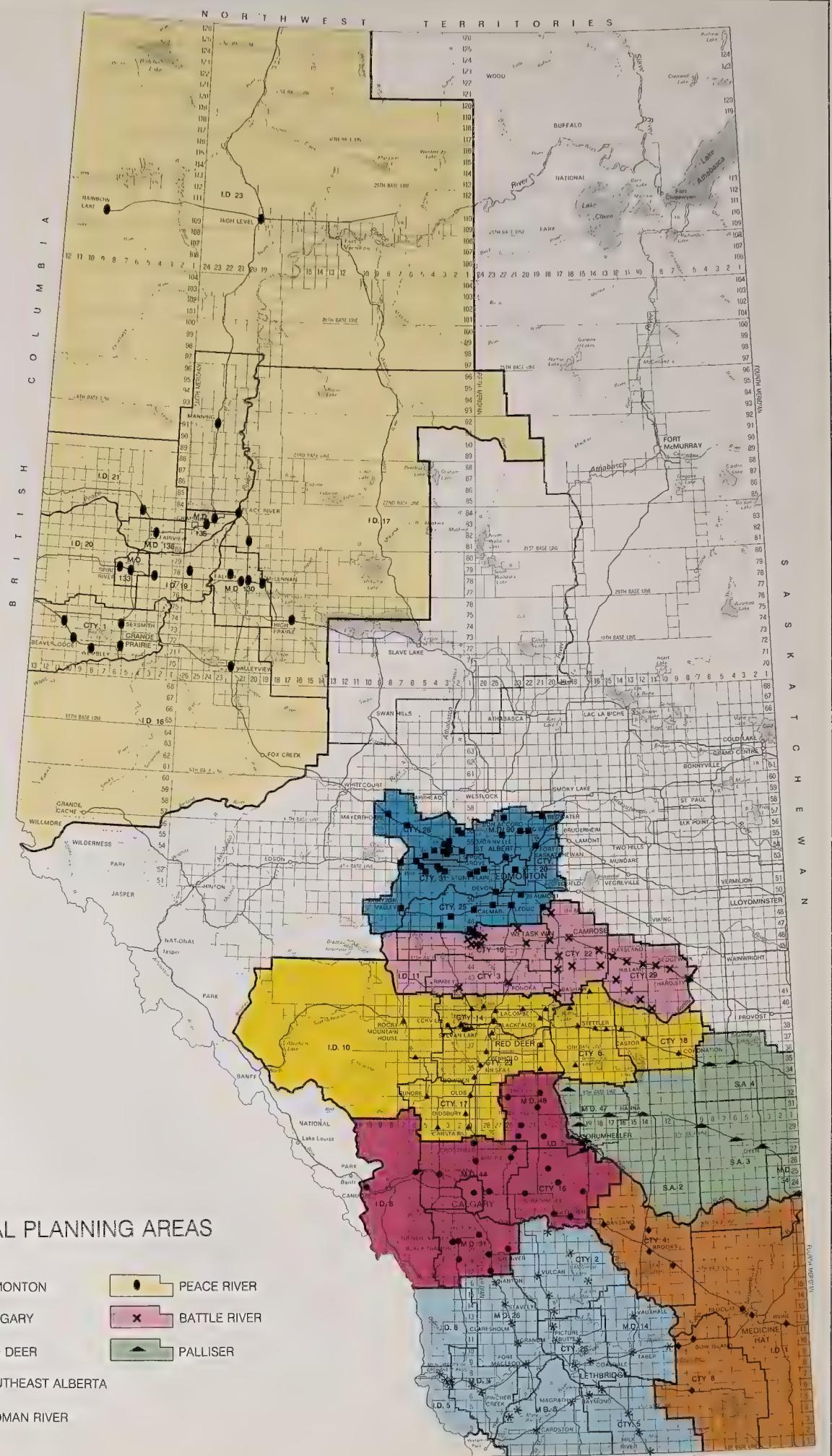


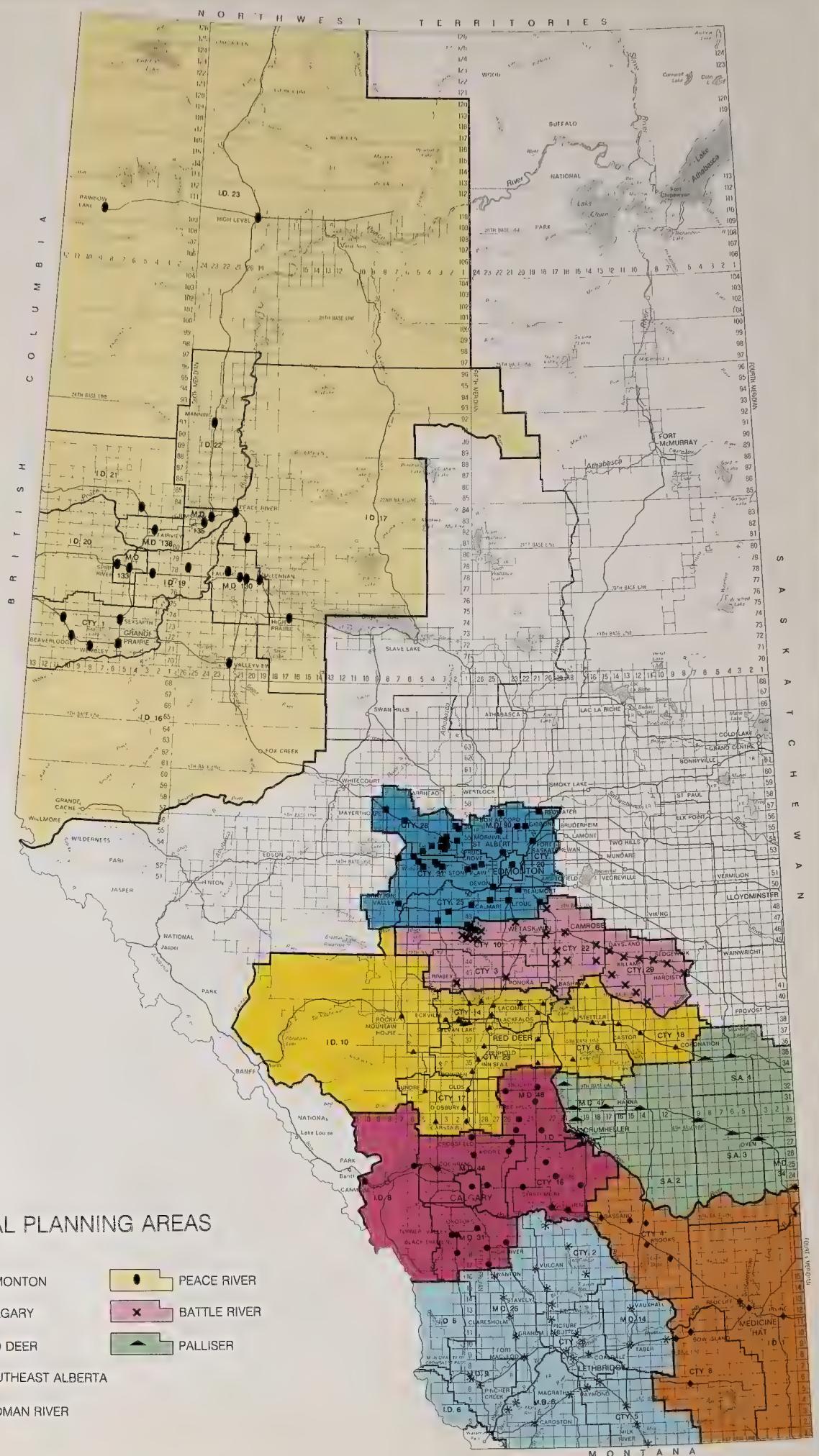
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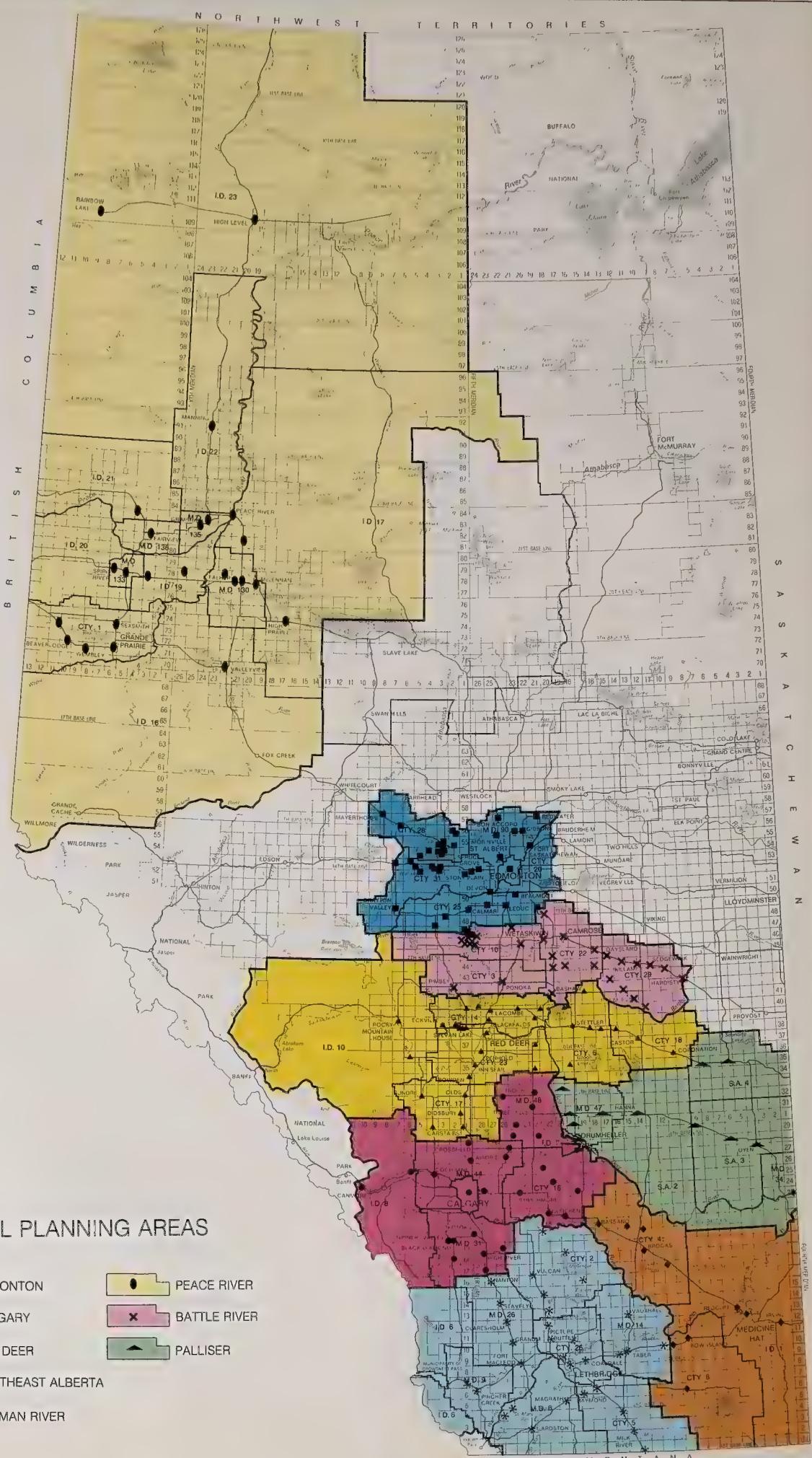


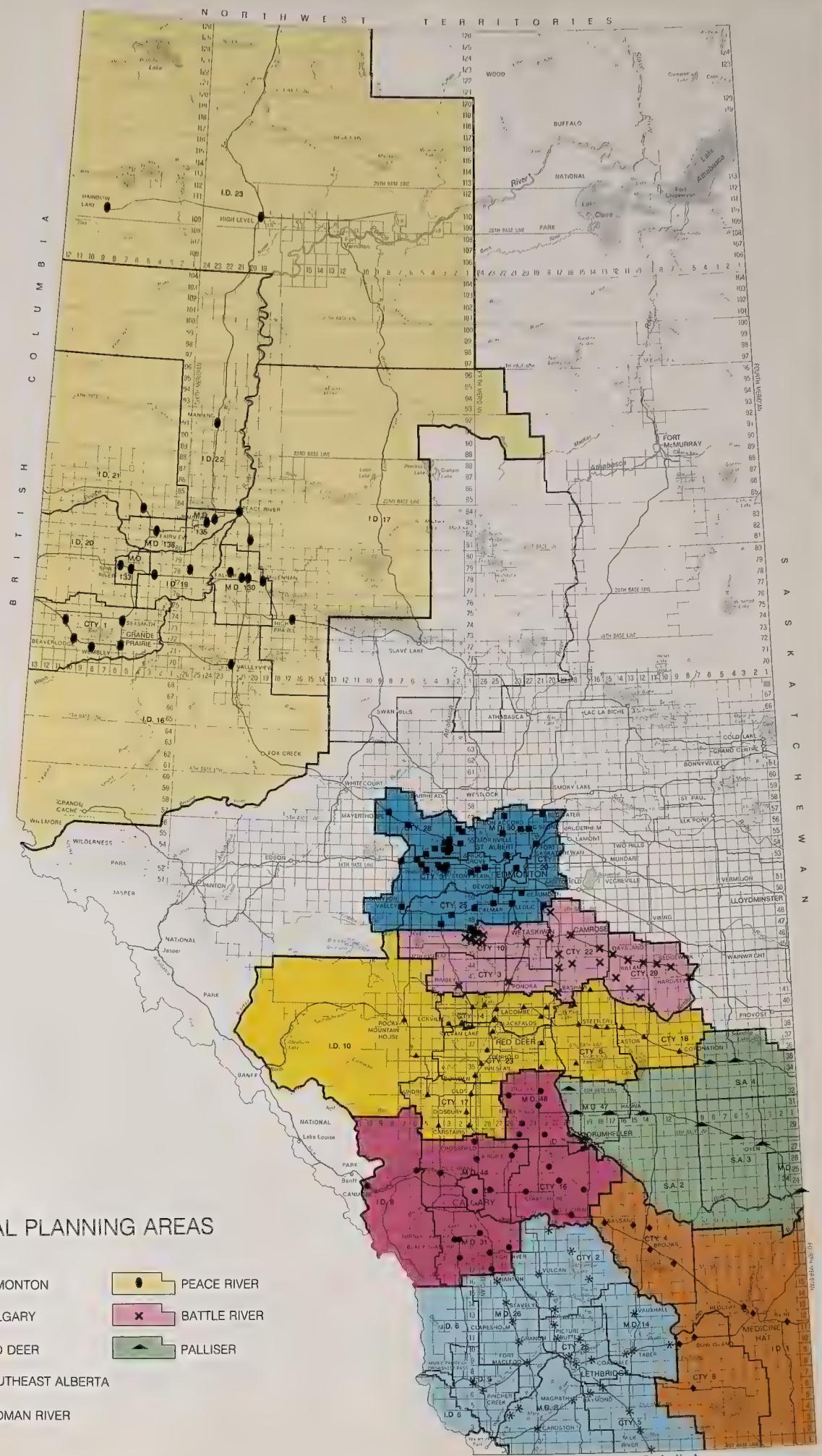




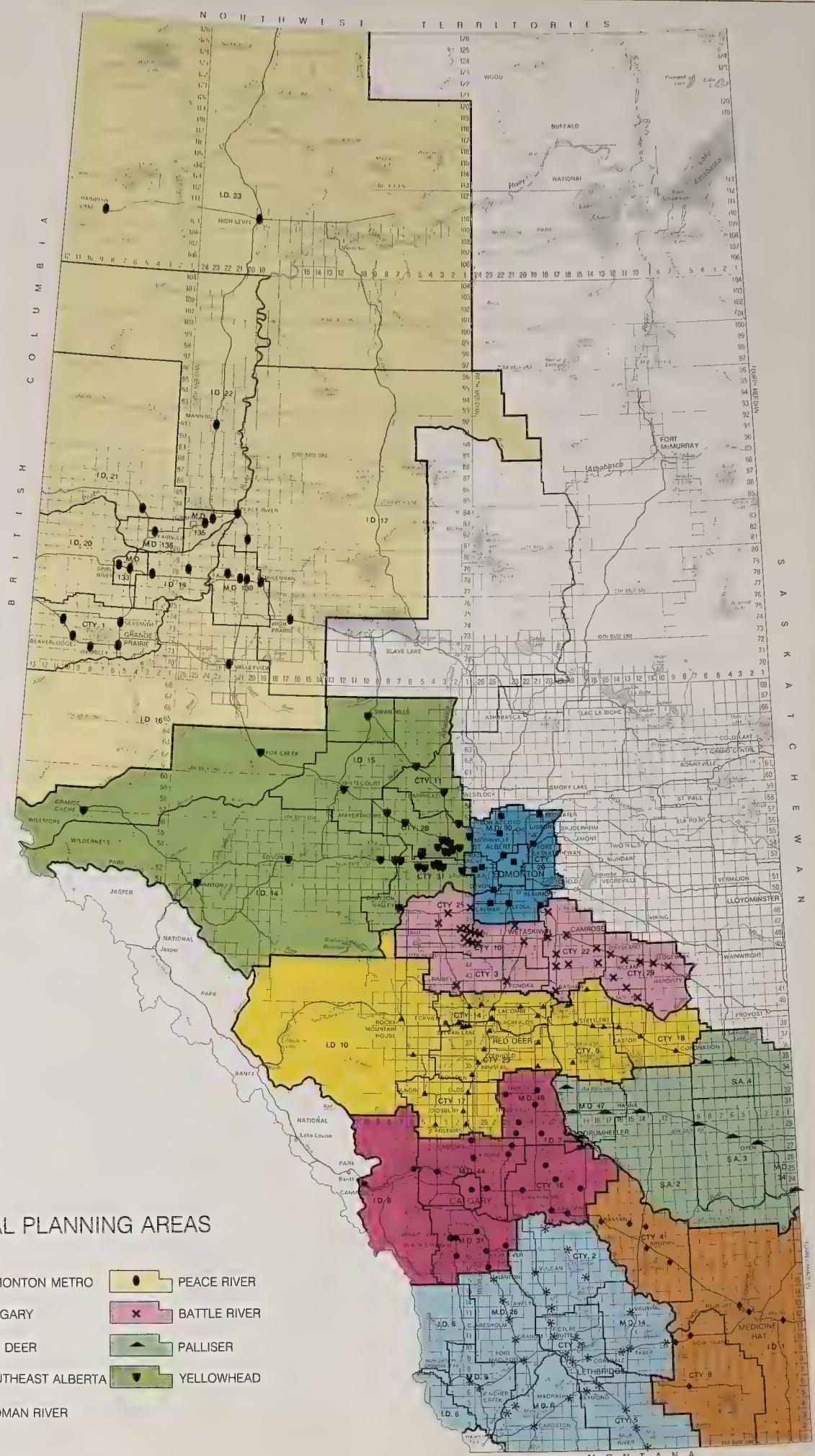


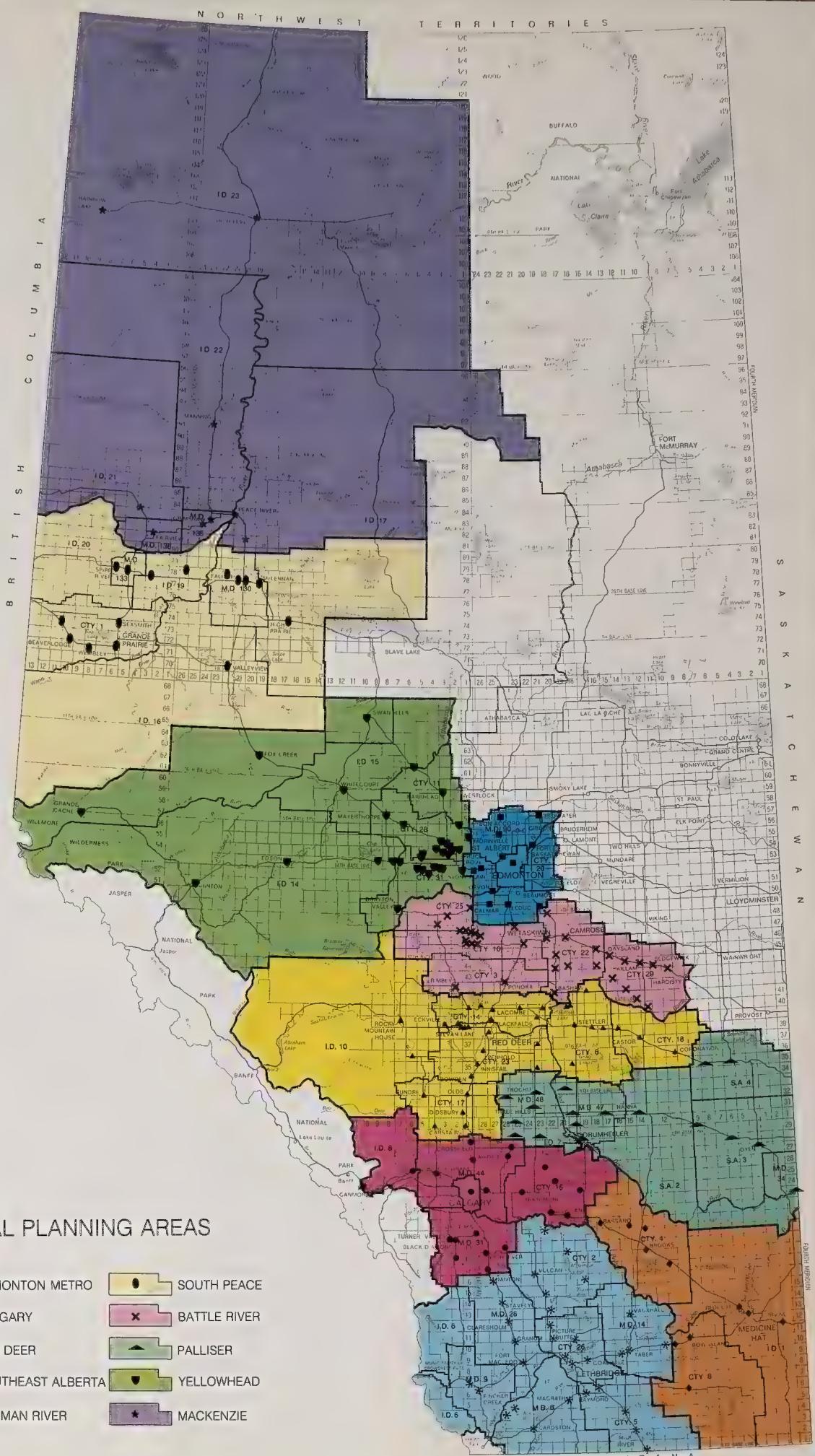


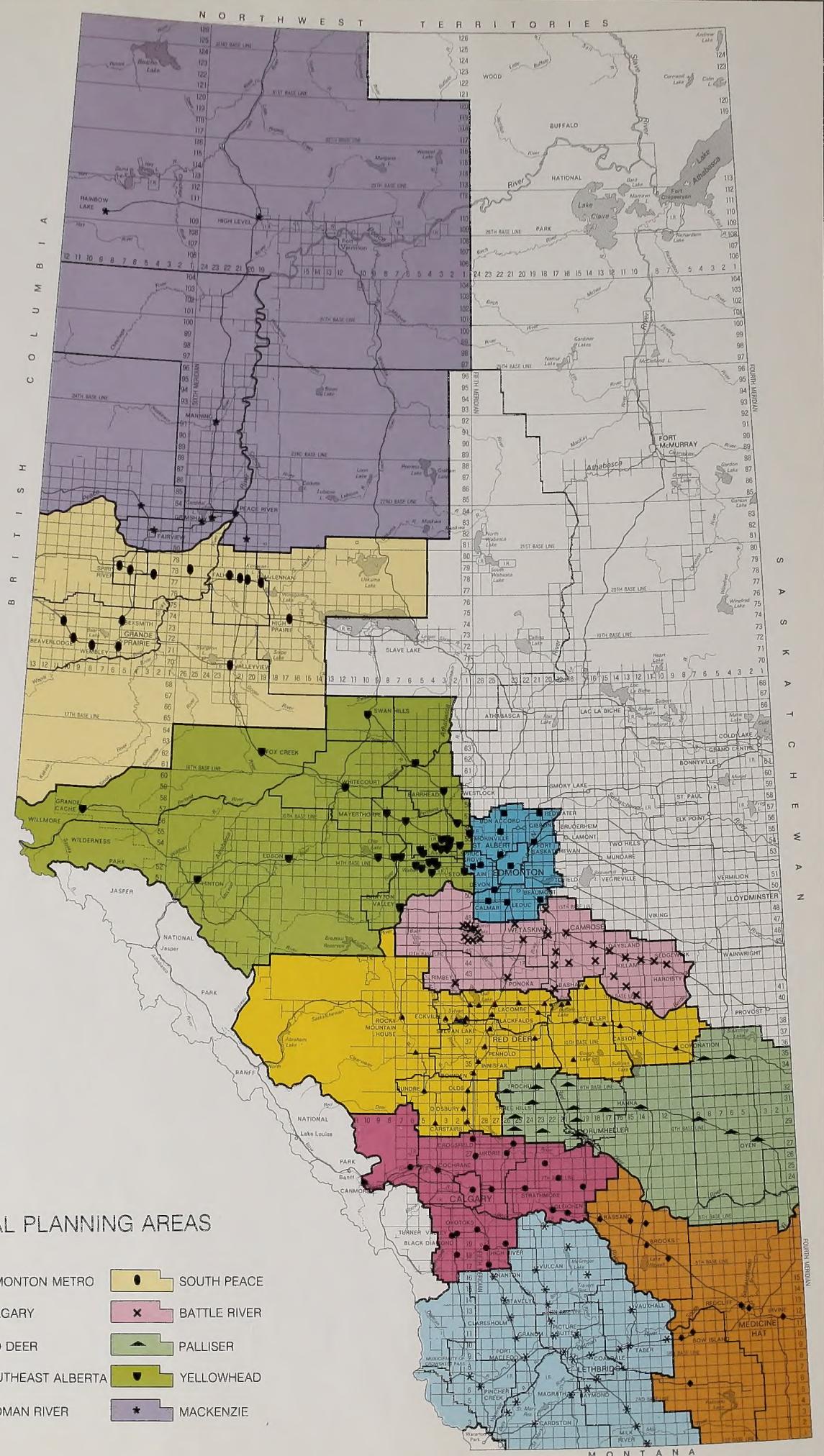




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1984

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REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS

■ EDMONTON METRO	● SOUTH PEACE
● CALGARY	✗ BATTLE RIVER
▲ RED DEER	▲ PALLISER
◆ SOUTHEAST ALBERTA	■ YELLOWHEAD
* OLDMAN RIVER	* MACKENZIE



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